



COMHAIRLE | CLARE  
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

# TUARASCÁIL MHÍOSÚIL ÓN PHRÍOMHFHEIDHMEANNACH

## MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Samhain / November  
2024



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# RURAL DEVELOPMENT

## CLÁR PROJECTS



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



Tionscadal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
2040

Ár dTodhchaí  
Tuaithe  
Our Rural  
Future



The lack of designated parking spots posed safety risks, especially during busy times.

The CLAR grant has facilitated essential drainage works, resurfacing, and the marking of parking spaces.

### Kilnamona



Kilnamona Development Association and Kilnamona National School have successfully completed a project funded under the CLÁR program, with a total grant of €37,958. The project focused on improving an existing play and recreation area, which serves both the school and the broader community. This space is in frequent use, including during school hours, community events at the Community Centre, after Sunday mass, and throughout holiday periods. Located next to the national school and Community Centre in Kilnamona, the area required surface repairs to ensure it remains a valuable and functional amenity for the community.

### Kilmaley GAA Car Park



Works have been completed by Kilmaley GAA Club on their car park at the Community Facility at Lisbiggeen, Kilmaley. The project received funding of €50,000 under the CLAR 2023 Programme.

The car park, approximately 2,600 square metres in size, previously had a gravel surface that required constant maintenance.

## OUTDOOR RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME (ORIS)

### Ballinruan/Gortmearacaun Looped Walk (Phase2)

The Ballinruan & Gortmearacaun Looped Walks start and finish in Ballinruan village. The Ballinruan Loop is 9.9kms and the Gortmearacaun Loop is 13.8kms. The development of these walks, along with the continuous maintenance and monitoring of this trail has all been carried out by Clare Walks Ltd. since 2013. The looped walks takes the walker across bogland, forestry and affords stunning views of the Slieve Aughty Mountains and towards the Burren. Funding under Measure 1 of the ORIS 2023 Scheme has enabled repair and maintenance works to be completed making the trail more accessible and enjoyable for walkers. Liscannor Unites: New Community Development Group



## COMMUNITY RECOGNITION FUND (CRF) PROJECTS

Works have been completed on a number of projects around the county with the assistance of grant funding under the Community Recognition Fund 2023. Among these are:

(i) Lisdoonvarna Playground: Lisdoonvarna Failte received funding of €41,000 under the Community Recognition Fund 2023 which enabled the purchase of new playground equipment and the repair of old equipment. In addition, a picnic bench and seating bench were purchased for the playground.



(ii) CLG CoraFinne & Playground Group: Funding of €15,000 was awarded to CLG CoraFinne & Playground Group to upgrade the

existing lighting on the local walking track, and playground. The new lighting system is much more efficient, more eco-friendly, less expensive and will allow people greater opportunity to avail of a well-lit facility for exercise later into the evening.



(iii) Lisdoonvarna Parish Hall: As part of an overall church restoration project, the Lisdoonvarna Parish applied for funding under the Community Recognition Fund 2023. Funding of just over €62,000 was awarded and has been used to carry out repairs to a leaking ceiling and roof along with upgrades to the catering and toilet facilities in the parish community room.



(iv) Knockalisheen Accommodation Centre: Knockalisheen Accommodation Centre is a state provided accommodation centre for 350 international protection applicants near Meelick, Co.Clare. Funding of €34,000 was provided under CRF for the development of an outdoor gym facility.

(v) Shannon Family Resource Centre: Funding of €23,000 was awarded to the Shannon Family Resource Centre to enable them to purchase new flooring, furniture and storage solutions at the Centre in Shannon. In addition, funds were allocated for the purchase of equipment designed for both group activities and individual use. This equipment will support initiatives that promote physical and mental well-being, helping to encourage healthier lifestyles and foster a sense of community.



(vi) Kilkee Waterworld: Funding of €200,000 was awarded to Kilkee Waterworld for upgrade works at the swimming pool. The works carried out, including replacement and repairs of windows, doors and roof, will increase the energy efficiency of the building.



### 2024 IPB Pride of Place Awards



Clare County Council put forward four remarkable projects for the 2024 IPB Pride of Place Awards. These entries showcase the dedication and passion of Clare's communities to build inclusive, sustainable, and thriving towns and villages. The 2024 Award Ceremony is being hosted by Monaghan County Council in association with Co-operation Ireland, on Saturday, November 2nd with the event livestreamed on the Pride of Place website.

The 4 Clare projects nominated for consideration are as follows:

#### **Category 1 (Population 0-300): Bunratty Local Development Association**

Bunratty Local Development Association has been revitalising this scenic village since 2013 through initiatives like heritage bus shelters and the 'Renew Bunratty' sustainability project.

#### **Category 3 (Population 1000-2000): Newmarket on Fergus Community Forum**

Newmarket on Fergus Community Forum unites diverse com-

munity groups with a focus on growth and sustainability. Obair is a community development organisation that works with local people to combat social exclusion as well as to develop social enterprise in the area, supporting those who are unemployed or elderly and work to facilitate greater community participation. Notable projects include a scenic walk linking key town landmarks, collaborative street improvements, and the 19th Hole Festival with the KPMG Women's Irish Open. These initiatives promote community engagement and aim to create a vibrant environment for all.

#### **Category 4 (Population 2000-5000): Circular Clarecastle**

Known for its rich heritage, Clarecastle is a tight-knit village of under 3,000 residents. Its calendar is filled with year-round activities, from seasonal festivals to environmental clean-ups. This lively village embodies a sense of unity and pride, making it an inspiring place for all ages.

#### **Category 9 - Inclusive Communities: Lisdoonvarna Fáilte**

Lisdoonvarna Fáilte fosters inclusivity by welcoming local residents, Ukrainian refugees, and individuals from the Direct Provision Centre. Programs like coffee mornings, fitness classes, and creative workshops support social connections and well-being. Future plans include a therapeutic community garden and expanded childcare, furthering their commitment to inclusive community spaces.

Clare County Council wish all four nominated Communities and their projects the best of luck at the 2024 IPB Pride of Place Awards.

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## RURAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

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### Developing Communities - Public Meeting Parteen

A public meeting took place in Parteen National School on Thursday 16th October 2024 with over 60 members of the community in attendance including Councillor Rachel Hartigan, Councillor Michael Begley and Councillor Tony Mulcahy. The meeting comprised three distinct segments;(1) Introduction from the Town Team (2) a general introduction by Conor Leyden RCDO, and (3) breakout sessions, where attendees from the local community were given the opportunity to discuss and record what they believed to be the strengths, challenges, opportunities and threats to Parteen. Attendees actively participated in the engagement and break-out discussions with the responses providing several common issues and themes demonstrating the general consensus across the community in terms of the current and future needs of Parteen. This level of engagement provides a strong foundation for future collaboration within the community, and for the potential for the development of new, community-led projects for Parteen.



## Liscannor Unites: New Community Development Group Embarks on Collaborative Journey for Growth and Connection

The RCDO team facilitated a six-month process to create this unified and representative community group, which included public meetings, a community needs analysis, a social event to strengthen local bonds, and a competitive election held in mid-October.

The group now includes over 30 members, guided by a committee of nine with four thematic leads based on community priorities: 1. Public Realm, Environment, Movement & Connections, 2. Enterprise, Community Development & Sustainable Growth, 3. Sports, Culture, Youth & Community Integration, and 4. Liscannor Healthy Aging Group. Together. The team look forward to partnering with Clare County Council, local stakeholders and various agencies on projects and initiatives to benefit Liscannor and the broader North Clare region.



*Niamh Wiley, RCDO joins members of the newly established Liscannor Community Development Group.*

## Fire Safety First: Ennistymon Fire Service Teams Up with Rural Development and the Liscannor's Healthy Aging Group

Rural Development partnered with Ennistymon Fire Station to provide a fire safety information session for Liscannor's elderly community. In early October, over 35 members of the Liscannor Healthy Aging Group attended an engaging session, held in Liscannor and led by staff from the Ennistymon Fire Station. During the session, participants learned about essential home fire safety measures and initiatives. They also gained insight into the valuable services provided by the dedicated crew at the Ennistymon Fire Station.



*Ennistymon Fire Service, Fire Fighters Mark Clancy and Nick Whitman, along with Niamh Wiley RCDO, and members of the Liscannor Healthy Aging Group committee gathered for an impactful outreach event.*

## BURIAL GROUNDS

### Extension to Drumcliff Burial Ground:

Clare County Council received approval from An Bord Pleanála to undertake an extension to the existing burial ground at Drumcliff Burial Ground. The extension consists of approximately 350 double plots, landscaping, and associated site works. The proposed development is designed to address the growing need for burial space and aims to enhance the existing burial ground while creating a tranquil and reflective environment. A tender process to appoint an engineering-led design team was concluded in October, and it is expected that the appointment will be finalised in early November. It is expected that the detailed design stage of the project will commence in November.

## CLARE AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

### Clare Age Friendly Programme

Building on the success of last year, the Clare Older People's Council and the Clare Age Friendly Programme hosted the Health and Wellbeing Age Expo 2024, during Positive Ageing week, on Thursday 3rd of October in Treacy's West County Hotel. The very successful Health and Wellbeing Age Expo was attended by up on 600 people and the event showcased the important supports and services available in County Clare that are of particular interest to older people. Based on the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Age Friendly themes the event also included a varied schedule of speakers, taster sessions, tech support and presentations on topical issues and services of relevance to older people.





The Clare Age Friendly Programme hosted Dementia Awareness training “Virtual Dementia Tour” on October 18th. The training, delivered by Trained2Care, provided an opportunity for attendees to enter the world of the person living with Dementia and to gain an understanding of how simple changes to practice and environment can improve lives of people with dementia. The training was attended by staff of Clare County Council, members of the Clare Older People’s Council and members and staff from the Clare Age Friendly Alliance.



The Clare Age Friendly County Strategy 2024 – 2030 – A Collective Ambition was launched by Cllr. Alan O’Callaghan, Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council at the Health and Wellbeing Age Expo 2024. Rooted in collaboration and compassion, the Strategy sets out an implementation plan, supported by the Clare Older People’s Council and the Clare Age Friendly Alliance, that aims to ensure that older people in Co Clare can thrive, participate fully in society, and live with dignity and purpose.



Supported by the Clare Creative Arts Fund, the Clare Age Friendly Programme and the Climate Action Team in Clare County Council held an intergenerational climate action workshop on October 10th in the Common Knowledge Centre, Kilfenora. Members of Clare Older People’s Council, Clare Cultural Companions, and Clare Youth Service’s UBU programme participated in the workshop that was hosted and facilitated by Aoife Hammond, Ciara Parsons, and Cian Corcoran from Common Knowledge.



## Clare Autumn Harvest Garden & Music Festival

The Clare Cultural Companions initiative hosted a Social Gathering for Cultural Companions to the Cultúrlann Sweeney Theatre, Kilkee on Thursday 24th October 2024. The members watched the movie 'That they may face the rising sun', had lunch and attended an artist talk by Helen Martin to discuss her exhibition entitled "A Brush with Nature".



## 2024 Healthy Clare Micro Funding:

Healthy Clare Micro Funded programmes for 2024 continued throughout October. Some projects spotlighted in October include:

- Place, Plant, Paint with North Burrin Community Group.
- Planning for delivery of Parenting Programmes with Clarecare.
- Women in Leadership training with Clare Traveller Community Development Project.
- Mindful walk in Clarisford with Clare Walks.
- Exercise classes in Lisdoonvarna.

## Living Well Through the Menopause Event



'Living Well Through the Menopause' is a Clare County Council collaborative event which was organised between the Human Resource Department, Creative Ireland and Healthy Clare. This event, took place on the 17th October in Glor and feedback has been very positive. The event was opened by Noeleen Fitzgerald, Clare County Council Director of Finance and Support Services followed by Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy, Cathaoirleach Ennis MD. A number of guest speakers presented with Dr. Máire Finn, Centric Health Ennis Medical, presenting first as the keynote speaker. This event was well received as a follow up to the Clare County Council staff talk with Dr. Finn around the menopause, which was organised in 2023. The 2024 programme was open to the community and saw more than 250 individuals attend on the day.

## HEALTHY CLARE

### Healthy Clare Funding Update

#### - Clare Age Friendly Health and Wellbeing Expo



Healthy Clare supported and attended the Clare Older Peoples Council Health and Wellbeing Expo on Thursday 3rd September. The Expo provided a chance to speak with attendees about Healthy Clare and to raise awareness of the programme.

## Health and Wellbeing Page Clare Echo

October saw a number of features highlighted to include:

- Week 4: HSE Sun Smart and Quit Smoking to mark the start of a month long campaign in both areas.
- Week 5: Wellness Café Glor and Connect Cafés, to support Mental Health month and the launch of the first Wellness Café in Clare.
- Week 6: HSE Active Living Programme and Irish Blood Transfusion to highlight the HSE Living well programme as a support to those living with chronic health conditions and also to highlight the need to blood donations.
- Week 7: HSE Breast Cancer Awareness.
- Week 8: HSE Quit Programme as we come to the end of the Quit.ie campaign.

If you would like to see a Health and Wellbeing initiative promoted in the Health and Wellbeing page please contact Samantha McCarthy, Healthy Clare Coordinator [samccarthy@clarecoco.ie](mailto:samccarthy@clarecoco.ie)

## CORPORATE SERVICES

### Freedom of Information & Data Protection:

Previous years and 2024 to date - statistics to 30th September 2024	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Freedom of Information Requests	152	176	119	156	121
Freedom of Information Internal Review Applications	6	13	8	4	5
Appeals with Information Commissioner	1	4	2	4	1
Data Access Requests – Subject Access Request	5	6	10	10	13
Data Requests – Erasure Request	0	1	1	2	0
Data Access Requests – Third Party Access Requests e.g. Gardaí	20	27	27	29	24

### Communications

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

22 media releases were issued during October 2024, including:

- Close to €700,000 awarded to 15 Clare Communities under CLÁR Funding
- Clare County Council has approved more than €17 million grant funding for Vacant Property Refurbishment
- Rising IT Star Award for Clare County Council
- Clare County Council Supporting Individuals to ‘Live Well Through The Menopause’
- Clare County Council Awarded Bronze Smarter Travel Mark
- County Clare businesses have received grants totalling more than €6 million under the Increased Cost of Business Grant Scheme

### Social Media

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

- In the period 1-24 October 2024, the Communications Office:
  - Posted 49 times on Facebook, with total followers now 20,596.
  - Posted 46 times on X (formerly Twitter), with total followers now at 8,746.
  - Instagram followers are now 3,720.

(Statistics accurate as of 24/10/2024)

### Register of Electors

In advance of notification of a general Election, the Franchise Section continue to review the Register of Electors to ensure records are up to date. In this regard, we are requesting the public to check [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie) to ensure their details are correct. The public can also email [register@clarecoco.ie](mailto:register@clarecoco.ie) with any queries they may have.

### Business Innovation

The Business Innovation team, consisting of representatives from all Directorates, continue to meet to discuss ongoing & potential new projects. Following a submission to the Department of Public Expenditure NDP Delivery and Reform, for funding of Innovative projects, a grant was awarded for the development of a digital lifeguard system to automate the reporting process of the daily duties of Lifeguards. The digital system was developed in collaboration with the Environmental and ICT team. It has been a huge success for management of daily lifeguards reports. We were delighted that Bhavesh Patadiya won the Rising I.T. Star award at the Public Sector Digital Transformation awards ceremony held recently.

Other projects, submitted through the Innovation team, are currently in the development phase, including the development of an application to track the processing of derelict sites applications.



# CULTURAL SERVICES - LIBRARY, ARTS, MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

## Clare County Library

Work is reaching an end phase on the new library with an expected opening date in November.




### Online Resources usage

There is strong demand for e-audiobooks and Pressreader. Pressreader is an international news stand that allows access to over 7,000 of the world's leading newspapers and magazines from over 100 countries.

1,920 E-Books	4,158 E-Audiobooks	1,133 E-Magazines (libby)
897 Online Courses	4,472 ePress (magazines & newspapers)	43 Transparent Languages

### Marketing & Social media

There were 2 media releases this month in relation to History week and the Memories of DeValera library event. Library staff hosted an information stand at the Health and Well being Age Friendly Expo.

	Total Followers	New Followers	Post Reach/ Impressions	Post Likes
	7,869	15	16,200	397
	2,287	-	5,305	199
	2,192	14	1,101	8

### Library Activities in Figures

Total number of in branch events	212
Total audiences at in branch events	2,479
Total number of outreach events	14
Total audiences at outreach events	126
Total number of deliveries	9
Total number of class novels issued	36

### Right to Read

Children's Book Festival took place during the month of October. A full programme of 50 events took place in all libraries in the county. Schools were invited to attend a variety of workshops

that included author talks, creative writing workshops, STEM building, puppet shows, plays, and storytelling.

### Adult Literacy for Life

Library Staff are participating in a 6-week Library Literacy Champions Course funded by the Adult Literacy for Life Collaboration and Innovation fund. Together with staff from Limerick City and County Libraries, staff have learned to recognise adults with unmet literacy needs and communicate using plain English. Two more training sessions will take place in November.



Kilkee Library - Flower arranging workshop with Joanne Dillon. A Creative Ireland event.

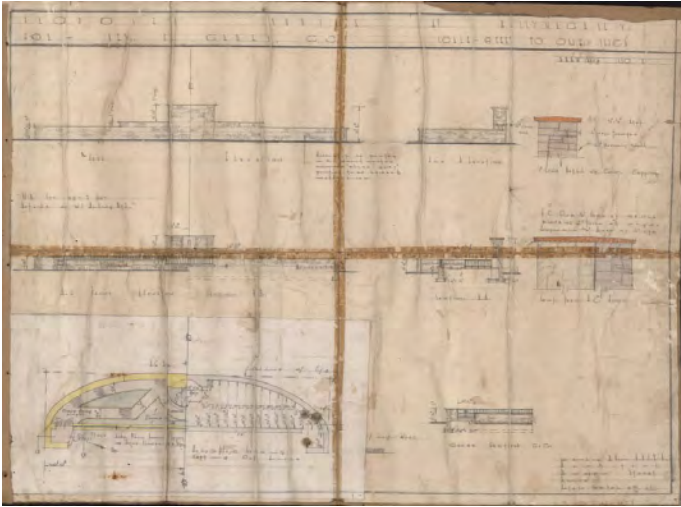
### Creative Ireland

The CI co-ordinator has been meeting with each member of the Culture team on a 1 to 1 basis, to discuss the 2024 funded projects as well as potential for 2025 projects, with a focus on cross departmental collaboration. Interesting projects are already being discussed, such as a Design Festival, adopting the Lesser Horseshow Bat for conservation purposes and 'Energy' as a theme for the Culture Team to focus on for community engagement. The cross departmental collaborative projects will allow for more efficiency, building a cohesive work environment and enhancing innovation through diverse perspectives.

On October 10th, the Intergenerational Climate Action Workshop, a collaboration between Clare County Council's Climate Action and Age Friendly Team and funded by Creative Ireland Clare, took place at the Common Knowledge centre in Ennistymon, bringing together participants from Clare's Older People's Council and Clare Youth Service. This project demonstrates the positive nature of cross departmental collaboration. Another Culture Team collaborative project that took place this month was the 'Living Well Through Menopause' event in glór. This event was a collaboration between Clare County Council's HR team, Healthy Clare and Creative Ireland Clare with close to 300 women taking part. Lastly, a series of workshops are currently taking place to develop a creative concept for Cruinniú na nÓg 2025

that reflects the voice of children seldom heard. Working with Ennis Voices for Autism, artist Evelyn Sorohan and Dr Luara Ambrose of MIC, the report will inform the 2025 Cruinniú na nÓg programming to ensure all children can access creativity.

**Local Studies**



The Local Studies Centre has added another collection to the Clare Libraries and Archives collection, Majella Daly has donated architectural drawings for a Marian Shrine in Ballynacally. This type of record, produced by Dowling Architects of Bindon Street, Ennis, and dating to the 1950's, is quite rare. The fourth tranche of entries from the 1821 census was published on the Clare Libraries website.

Find My Past Stats April – September 751  
Irish Newspaper Archive usage 2,500



Clare Libraries History Week took place from 14th-18th October. Highlights of the week included a panel discussion held in Scariff Library on Land Conflict in East Clare 1852-1923 and talks on Kilrush housing by Peter Connell, Bindon Street by Lucille Ellis and the Ordnance Survey by Michael Talty. All online lectures can be accessed at <https://clarelibraries.ie/projects/history-week-2024/>

A Memories of DeValera Library event took place in DeValera Library on 16th October where the public joined with retired and present staff to reminisce about what Ennis library means to them. Retired County Librarian Noel Crowley attended the evening.

**Clare Archives**

Archives received a donation of 23 rollbooks, daybooks and district inspector's reports from Knockanean National School. The Archivist gave an online talk as part of Clare Libraries History Week. There is ongoing cataloguing of the Barrett Collection. There is also the usual archival queries regarding private collections and local authority collections in Clare Archives and Our Lady's.

**Clare Arts Office**



New calls opened for Clare Artist in Schools Scheme and the Embrace Arts and Disability programme. Clare Arts Office also launched a new bursary for an artist with a disability. Three exhibitions took place in Ennis, Scariff and Kilkee in October. The Arts Office participated in the Ennistymon 84 event and supported the Burren Annual exhibition at the Burren College of Art. Cultúrlann Sweeney, Kilkee hosted a wildlife talk, a film, a children's theatre show, a concert and a Cultural Companions event as well as an Autism Friendly children's film screening. Two Arts in Clare slots happened on Clare FM.

The Arts Office assisted a potential advertisement shooting at Doughmore and the Arts in the Community programme continued in St. Joseph's Hospital, Ennis and in Raheen Hospital.

Clare Youth Theatre visited Nenagh Youth Theatre and their film of the summer production of 'Roisín's Robe' was shared online as part of Clare Libraries History Week. Creative Ireland PRISM projects were completed in Ennis, Lisdoonvarna and Ennistymon.

Social Media Stats:

Facebook 20/9/24-18/10/24					
	Post reach	Post engagement	New Page likes	New Page followers	Total followers
Clare Arts Office	6,460	1,734	6	21	3,404
Cultúrlann Sweeney	2,474	190	6	11	2,094
EASI Studios	34	2	1	1	152
Tulla Stables Artist Studios	11	2	1	1	660
CYT - Clare Youth Theatre	31	1	2	4	584
Riches of Clare	81	2	1	1	2,867
Clare Culture Night	3,714	327	7	13	1,318
Embrace Arts Programme	12	3	0	0	561
Arts In Clare Group	-	-	-	-	3,372
Clare Trad Group	-	-	-	-	2,722
Instagram 20/9/24-18/10/24					
Account	Followers	Reach			
Clare Arts Office	848	610			
Culture Night	226	576			

Clare Museum



The Education & Outreach Officer visited Scariff Library to meet with their Age Friendly & Craft groups and brought a selection of items from the Museum’s Embroidery Collection, 27 people attended the event. The Curator and Education & Outreach Officer met with the Council’s Community Archaeologist, Tori McMorran, to discuss future collaborations between the Museum and the Heritage Office, Tori gave a talk in the Museum about the role of the community archaeologist during History week.

The Curator and Education & Outreach Officer travelled to Killaloe to attend a book launch. The book contains a selection of photos and stories from the ‘Sharing Our Stories’ project run by the Killaloe-Ballina History Society and the LCETB in conjunction with Killaloe Boys National School and Killaloe Convent Primary School. The project involved members of the community and grandparents of the school children bringing items from the past

to the schools where the items were displayed and the stories behind them shared with the children. The Museum also brought items to these gatherings and these artefacts were explored by children attending.

A total of 16 TY students, along with 2 of their teachers, from St. John Bosco Community College in Kildysart visited the museum. An oral history project, funded by Creative Ireland, got underway at the Museum when 5 older people visited, bringing along a personal item each from their past. Paula Carroll from Cuimhneamh an Chláir recorded the stories attached to the items. These stories will now be edited and made available as an audio collection on the Museum’s website, along with photos of the items. It is hoped to continue this project in the wider community when the Education & Outreach Officer visits Age Friendly groups around the county. The first Education and Outreach Brochure has been produced by the Museum to disseminate to schools and organisations around the county and beyond. The brochure, designed with the help of one of the Museum’s volunteers contains details of the education and outreach services on offer from and at the Museum.

The Education & Outreach Officer, along with her counterpart from Tipperary Museum of Hidden History, visited the TY students in Rice College in Ennis to give an information session on the ARTiculation Competition, with the intention of enlisting some of the students to take part in the competition in 2025, the first time that Clare students will take part. ARTiculation Ireland is a public speaking competition which promotes the appreciation and discussion of art, artefacts and architecture in secondary schools throughout Ireland. The competition seeks to engage students between 16-18 years, regardless of background or experience, with art, artefacts and architecture to develop the confidence and ability to express their opinions and conclusions. The Museum monthly lecture series returned on the second Wednesday of the month, when Mary Cahill gave a talk on Gold Gorgets from County Clare to 22 people.

## KILLALOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

**Scarriff** - Ongoing works from Scarriff NS To Fossabeg housing Estate



**Killaloe** - Footpath replacement works ongoing at Crossroads, Killaloe. Pavement overlay works are to be carried out on Monday 4th November 2024



Low-Cost Safety Improvement Works at Harold's Cross near Clonlara. The works involve improvement works to Sightlines, Kerbing, advanced warning signage and line markings. Works are scheduled to be completed in the next 2 to 3 weeks.



**Scarriff** - Works to paths adjacent to Fossabeg Estate linking to Scarriff NS almost complete. ESB Overhead services are to be dropped underground and line marking works are yet to be completed.



**Scarriff** - Overlay works on the R-352 at Ballyminogue, Scarriff



# 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](mailto:hat@clarecoco.ie). Our Ukrainian support team can be contacted on 065 6846577 or by email: [communityresponseforum@clarecoco.ie](mailto:communityresponseforum@clarecoco.ie). Our Local Authority Integration Team can be reached at [integration@clarecoco.ie](mailto:integration@clarecoco.ie)

The Council has launched a new online portal for our Housing Adaptation Grant for Older People and People with a Disability. 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.

[Clare County Council Housing Grants online application](#)

The Draft Traveller Accommodation Program was on display up to 27th September and final version of the program has been prepared, taking into account submissions received, and

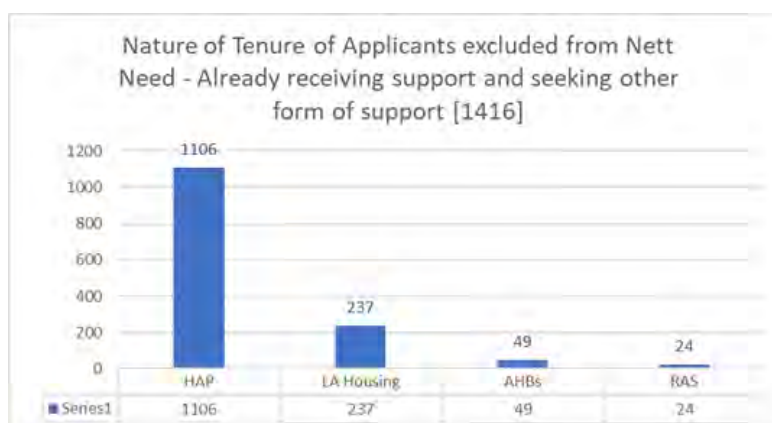
was ratified by the incoming Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee at their first meeting. A copy of same has been circulated to Elected Members for review and it is expected it will be on the agenda for the December Council meeting. Membership of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee was ratified by this Council at the October meeting and the first meeting was held in the last week of October.

### Social Housing Demand

The annual assessment of Social housing need [SSHA] was completed on 4th November with return date of 2nd December. National report on same is expected in Q1 2025. The highest demand throughout the county remains for 1 and 2-bedroomed properties. There are 2,187 applicant households (77%) who have a requirement for this property type.

### Current Housing need as of 25/10/2024

Total Households on List	2,849	
Transfer Applicants (see below)	1,416	1,416
Net Need	1,433	



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	962	201	69	1232
SHANNON	172	35	16	223
CLARECASTLE	146	27	9	182
INAGH/ENNISTYMON/LAHINCH	121	24	6	151
KILRUSH	92	25	8	125
FEAKLE/SCARIFF/WHITEGATE	93	27	3	123
MEELICK/PARTEEN/WESTBURY	67	24	11	102
MILTOWN MALBAY/MULLAGH/QUILTY	72	10	1	83

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

COROFIN/RUAN	63	17	1	81
KILKEE/CROSS/CARRIGAHOLT	61	15	1	77
NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS	51	18	4	73
KILLALOE	53	14	2	69
LISDOONVARNA/BALLYVAUGHAN	45	12	3	60
SIXMILEBRIDGE	37	12	5	54
COORACLARE/DOONBEG	33	11	5	49
TULLA/KILKISHEN/BROADFORD	34	8	2	44
CLONLARA	25	6	2	33
KILDYSART/BALLYNACALLY	21	4	3	28
QUIN	16	8	3	27
KILMIHIL	9	5	2	16
KILMALEY	9	2		11
KILFENORA	5	1		6
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,187</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>2,849</b>

### Newly Qualified Applicants



to 1st October last. This development also attracted huge interest and over 300 expressions of interest were received. This development comprises 18 units, 16 apartments and 2 semi-detached houses. The Allocation process in relation to this development is currently in progress.



### Housing Allocations

The Allocation process in relation to the new social development at Baile Ui Loidean Sixmilebridge is now completed. This development was advertised on the CBL website from 10th to 17 September last. This development comprises 4 no 3 bed-roomed and 11 no 2 bed-roomed houses and in excess of 300 expressions of interest were received.



The new social housing development located at Droichead Nua Scariff was advertised on the CBL website from 24th September



### Tenant Purchase Incremental Scheme

There remains significant interest in the LA Tenant Purchase Incremental Scheme. We currently have 21 open cases at various stages of the process. The sale of six properties under the tenant purchase scheme have been completed to date in 2024 with a further four to be completed this year. Having consulted with elected members in relation to

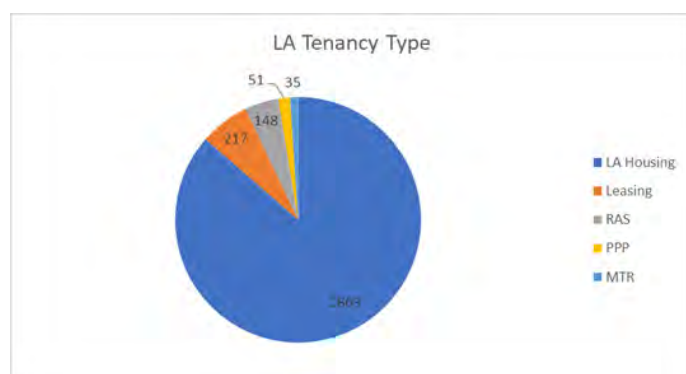
## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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 October 2024			
MD	Allocated	Occupied	Total
Ennis MD	4	1282	1,286
Killaloe MD	0	358	358
Shannon MD	17	737	754
West Clare MD	3	950	953
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>3,327</b>	<b>3,351</b>



There are 148 RAS, 217 leases (122 Long term and 95 short term leases) There are 1106 HAP tenancies. Approved Housing bodies are providing approximately 850 tenancies to Social Housing Applicants. Clare County Council have full nomination rights in respect of the majority of AHB properties and these properties are advertised via our Choice Based Letting System. Nominations are prepared in accordance with a new National Process agreed by LAs and the AHB sector and commenced in July 2022.

### Vacancies:

Vacant Stock	Ennis MD	West Clare MD	Shannon MD	Killaloe MD	Total
Traveller Accom	3	7	0	0	10
Derelict Properties	0	0	0	0	0
Projects	3	4	1	2	10
Casual Vacancies	18	16	7	3	44
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>64</b>

### 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 this year to date. A number of further Repossession Applications will be going through the Courts in the coming months.

The team have been extremely active in carrying out tenancy visits for the period up to end of October and a total of 1,280 inspections have been carried out year to date. 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 asb 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](mailto:asb@clarecoco.ie). Listed hereunder shows details of work being undertaken by the Estate Management team this year to date.

	Total year to date	27th Sept - 31st Oct
Complaints recd re breaches of Tenancy	834	93
Tenancy Visits	1,280	104
Referrals to TSS (including Tulsa)	49	4
Tenancy Notifications/Warnings issued	57	3
Abandonment Notices issued	12	1
Keys collected from Casual Vacancies	50	6
Repossession Orders	3	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 working hours of the team are flexible to meet required need, involving working after hours and weekends as the need dictates. The team can be contacted out of office hours, should the need arise, by contacting the Council Emergency Phone no. **(087) 2599568**

### Private Rented inspections:

661 inspections have been carried out up to 31st October 2024. These inspections were carried out on HAP, RTB, RAS and Leased properties, as well as in response to complaints that were received. The team continue to follow up where properties do not meet the minimum rented standards.

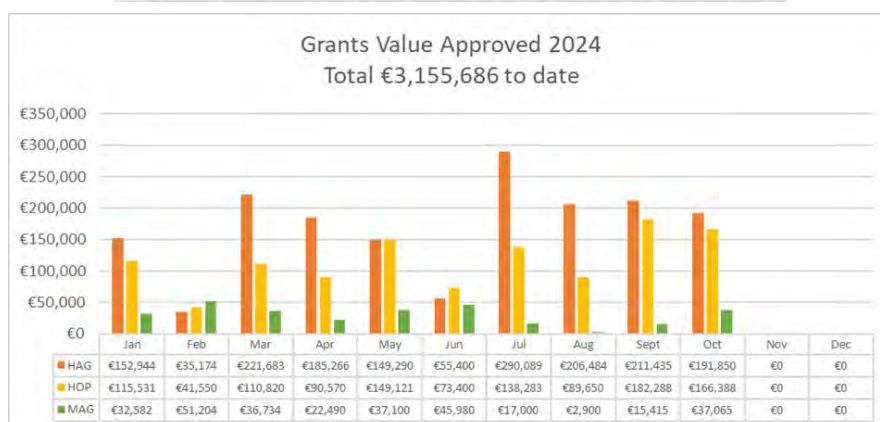
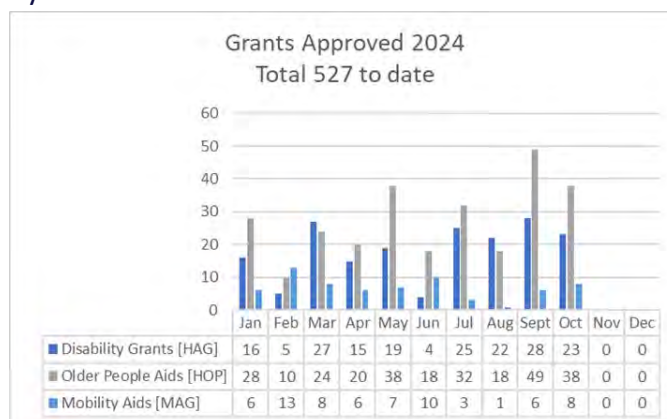
### Housing Grants:

The Housing Adaptation Grant for Older People and People with a Disability is now available to apply online through Clare County Council's website.

[Clare County Council Housing Grants online application](#)



### Grants Approved to date this year:



### Local Authority Home Loan

Full details on the Local Authority Home Loan (LAHL) and eligibility criteria including the Loan Calculator and Information Booklet can be found on [www.localauthorityhomeloan.ie](http://www.localauthorityhomeloan.ie). There are currently 66 Local Authority Home Loans Approved in Principle. Updated figures are outlined as follows:

<b>35 Applications to date in 2024</b>	<b>66 Local Authority Loans Approved</b>
<b>5 Local Authority Loans Drawn Down in 2022, 12 Drawn Down in 2023 and 11 to date in 2024</b>	<b>49 Applications received in 2023</b>

### Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Loan

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

Full details on the Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Loan (LAPR) and eligibility criteria including the Loan Calculator can be found on <https://purchaseandrenovationloan.ie/>. 1 LAPR Application has been received to date in 2024

### Traveller Accommodation

The Draft Traveller Accommodation Program was on display up to 27th September and final version of the program has been prepared, taking into account submissions received, and



was ratified by the incoming Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee at their first meeting. A copy of same has been circulated to Elected Members for review and it is expected it will be on the agenda for the December Council meeting. Membership of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee was ratified by this Council at the October meeting and the first meeting was held in the last week of October.

### Homeless Services [Homeless Action Team HAT]

The level of complex and problematic cases presenting to the Homeless Action Team in Clare is increasing. This puts additional demands 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, 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 family/relationship breakdown, Hospital discharges, prison releases, addiction or mental health concerns, dual diagnosis, and a further increase in the number of households presenting from the Travelling Community.

Prevention and support remain a key factor in the workings of the Homeless Action Team. Several single and household presentations worked with staff around prevention options and supports which in turn prevented the need for Emergency Accommodation and avoiding entering a homeless situation. Other individuals and families were supported in accessing Emergency Accommodation either within our services or through private establishments.

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 in order to adopt a collaborative approach to the tackling of Homelessness.

#### Emergency Accommodation Status as of 17th October 2024:

	Families	Adults	Dependents	Providers
Laurel Lodge	0	13	0	1
Laurel Lodge	0	5	0	0
Cusack Lodge	5	7	14	1
Westbrook	0	19	0	1
Ashford Court	12	17	15	1
Clann Nua	0	13	0	1
EA Families	6	7	14	4
EA Individuals	0	18	0	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>13</b>

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

#### Exits from Homeless Services:

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

During the period 20/09/2024 to 17/10/24 the following exited from homelessness:

• Self Discharge	1
• Moved to A.H.B Housing	0
• Moved to Temp. Accommodation	3
• Admitted to hospital	1
• Excluded	2
• In Prison (on remand)	0
• Tenancy LA	1
• Moved to Long Term Lease	1

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

### Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme

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

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

Clare County Council continue to review applications since the commencement of the scheme through the online portal and continue to validate applications prior to sending them to the Housing Agency for their review and assessment. Housing Agency have carried out coring and testing on a number of properties and remediation options for the first batch of applications have commenced. Clare County Council are receiving ROGs (Remediation Option Grants) from the Housing Agency, and are referring these options to the relevant homeowner.

Clare County Council DCB team have commenced releasing grant monies for Building Condition Assessment reports (BCA's), accommodation and storage costs for eligible applicants and are awaiting the first submission for grant requests for construction work.

Clare County Council's DCB Team held an information evening in Shannon Library on the 8th of October last, to further assist homeowners on how to make an application to the scheme via the online portal. The information evening was targeted for people with limited digital resources and/or capabilities, to

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

assist them further in making an application.

So far in 2024, Walk in clinics have been held in Kilrush, Ennistymon, Scarriff, Shannon and Ennis. 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:

Housing capital schemes are progressing well and are at varying stages of design and construction across the county. Scarriff, Sixmilebridge and Gort Road are under construction and these projects are continuing to progress well. Scarriff and Sixmilebridge are 2024 deliverables.



Progress on Scarriff housing development



Progress on Sixmilebridge project



Progress on Gort Road housing development

### Approved Housing Bodies

The Approved Housing Body sector is busy completing a number of projects at Ennis, Quin, Shannon and Tulla which is expected to be delivered before the end of the year. They are a key component to successful delivery of our targets under Housing for All and we continue to engage with them on housing output and lend support in relation to operational and financial matters.

SHIP Capital	No. approved	Current stage	Start Date	Completion
Scarriff	18	Under Construction	Q1 2023	Q4 2024
Sixmilebridge	15	Under Construction.	Q1 2023	Q4 2024
111 Dún na hInse	1	Complete	Q4 2023	Q3 2024
Main Street Clarecastle	1	Under Construction	Q1 2024	Q4 2024
38 St Patrick's Terrace, Kilrush	1	Contractor Appointed	Q2 2024	Q3 2025
St. Senan's Terrace, Kilrush	1	Complete	Q3 2023	Q2 2024
Clarehill Clarecastle	13	Turnkey - Under Construction	Q3 2023	Q4 2024 (10) Q1 2025 (3)
Garrán Cathaigh, Leadmore Kilrush	14	Turnkey - Under Construction	Q2 2024	Q4 2024
Béal an Inbhir, Kilrush	28	Turnkey - Under Construction	Q2 2024	Q2 2025
Drumcliff Rd. Ennis	26	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. S179A under judicial review	-	-
Ennistymon	30	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Project on hold.	-	-
Doonbeg Road, Kilkee	25	Stage 1 approved by DHLGH. Project on hold.	-	-
Gort Rd. Ennis	20	Construction commenced.	Q3 2024	Q4 2025
Back Road, Kilrush	12	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Part VIII approved. Construction tender in preparation.	Q1 2025	Q2 2026

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Moore Street, Kilrush	16	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Currently in Part VIII process.	Q1 2025	Q3 2026
Doonbeg Lands	8	Stage 4 approved by DHLGH. Approval granted by ABP. Construction commencing November 2024.	Q4 2024	Q4 2025
Shallee Drive / Cloughleigh Rd	5	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Part VIII approved. Construction tender being prepared.	Q1 2025	Q4 2025
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>234</b>			
<b>Approved Housing Body Projects</b>	<b>No. approved</b>	<b>Current stage</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
Cluain na Laoi, Kilkishen (Circle Housing Assoc.) CALF Turnkey	16	Completed	Q1 2023	Q2 2024
Crusheen (Cluid Housing Assoc.) CALF Turnkey (Part V)	3	Completed	Q3 2023	Q3 2024
Acha Bhile, Lahinch Rd., Ennis (Cluid Hsg. Assoc.) CALF Turnkey	21	Completed 11 units in Phase 2 Under Construction 10 units in Phase 3	Q3 2023 Q1 2024	Q4 2024 Q4 2024
Quin, Ennis (Co-Operative Hsg. Ireland) CALF Turnkey)	36	Under construction: 20 units in Phase 1 16 units in Phase 2	Q1 2023 Q3 2023	Q4 2024 Q4 2024
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	Q4 2025
71 Shannon Heights, Kilrush (Sophia Hsg. Assoc.) CAS Renewal Const.)	1	At procurement stage	Q2 2025	Q4 2025
Loughville, Ennis (Tuath Housing) CALF Turnkey	48	Under construction: 14 units in Phase 1 34 units in Phase 2	Q1 2024 Q1 2024	Q4 2024 Q1 2025
Clonroad, Ennis, St. Vincent de Paul CAS Turnkey	12	Under construction	Q1 2024	Q4 2024
Bruachlan, Westbury (Cooperative Hsg. Ireland) CALF Construction	22	Planning granted	Q4 2024	Q4 2025
Shannon (Cluid Housing Assoc.)	5	Under construction	Q4 2023	Q4 2024
Millbank, Roslevan, Ennis (Co-Operative Hsg. Ireland) CALF Turnkey	25	Under construction: 15 units in Phase 1 10 units in Phase 2	Q1 2024 Q2 2024	Q1 2025 Q3 2025
Carraig Nua, Tulla (Cluid Hsg Assoc.) CALF Turnkey (Part V)	4	Under construction	Q1 2024	Q4 2024
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>208</b>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>442</b>			

## UKRAINIAN SERVICES TEAM

The CSO figures show there were 827 Temporary Protections granted nationally in the past four weeks, the number of new arrivals into the Country has reduced by 46 people compared to the weekly figures outlined in the previous Monthly Management Report. There are currently 5,189 Ukrainian Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP's) living in County Clare, representing a decrease of 229 people in the County compared to figures released previously. There are 1,848 people accommodated in 28 multi-occupancy facilities located throughout the County - this reflects a decrease of 105 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. There is still huge interest in the scheme since it's launch in November 2022, we currently have 250 homes offered resulting in an increase of 14 properties compared to figures released previously. We currently have 5 properties offered that will be available during the month of November. To date our Matching & Relationship Manager has facilitated the accommodation of 492 people that were originally living in hotel and multi-occupancy facilities.

### 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, child-care 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. Their [integration@clarecoco.ie](mailto:integration@clarecoco.ie)



Fiona Cahill who presented t-shirts to the Scariff Sanctuary Runners Group on behalf of the LAIT team.



Brendan Boyce presenting the t-shirts which the LAIT team sponsored to Jennifer O'Brien Sanctuary Runners, Claire O Leary & Fiona Cahill.

*Clare County Council Local Integration Team are delighted have come on board to support the Sanctuary Runners in the local area.*

*Reaching out a welcoming hand goes a long way to people who have arrived here from difficult situations. The Sanctuary Runners t-shirt is a strong visual symbol of welcome, and with the support of the LAIT, this symbol of welcome and solidarity will be visible throughout County Clare.*

*It's important we create deliberate safe spaces for the whole*

community to come together, and that's what the Sanctuary Runners will be doing in Clare. All are welcome to come for a walk, jog or run.

- Michael Darragh Macauley

Sanctuary Runners meet in Ennis each Sunday at 3pm, Scariff on Tuesdays at 7.30pm and in Lisdoonvarna on Saturday mornings. There is also interest in setting up a group in Ballyvaughan. Anyone interested in getting involved or getting more information can contact Jennifer O'Brien-jennifer@sanctuaryrunners.ie.



Padraig McMahon, Fiona Cahill & Vinay a resident in the Clare Lakelands Hotel who moved to Scariff from Mauritius who initially volunteered with the East Clare Community Cooperative in Scariff and on receipt of his work permit he has recently taken up the position of the Garden Café's kitchen supervisor.



Fiona Cahill & staff of Clare Youth Service attending Clare Youth Service Open Day

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION CLINIC

**Advice on:**

- Education & Training
- Finding Work/ Designing a CV
- Supporting Inclusive Employment
- English Classes
- Immigration Information
- Sport & Physical Activity
- Volunteering
- Bus Services

**Venue:** Pavilion Centre, Lisdoonvarna, V95 WF88  
**Time:** 12.30pm - 2.30pm  
**Date:** Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October  
**All are welcome to attend**

LAIT who organised the Community Information Clinic in Lisdoonvarna in collaboration with the LCETB & CLDC.



Fiona Cahill, Brendan Boyce, Breandán O Keffe Cathy Walsh People and Place and Padraig McMahon –

The LAIT team hosted the Clare Migrant Integration Position Paper Presentation and Workshops around the County from on Monday 30th September to the 3rd of October.

The position paper is being commissioned that will provide a stocktake of achievements, baselines, issues, challenges and opportunities to date and that this will inform the forthcoming Clare Migrant Integration Strategy.

To achieve this the services of People and Place, a Maynooth University and All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO) spin-out consulting group have been appointed and will be facilitating this meeting.

Their role in this project and with the assistance of the attendees will be as follows:

- To profile the diversity of County Clare's population – including change over time and spatial patterns;
- To map the stakeholders involved in integration / inter-culturalism in County Clare;
- To document stakeholders' experiences, learnings and aspirations;
- To take stock of policies and practices that affect integration / inter-culturalism in Co. Clare; and
- To identify issues, processes and considerations that ought to inform the formulation of the migrant integration strategy.

Should you have any queries in relation to this, please contact Brendan Boyce Integration Support Co-Ordinator at [BBoyce@clarecoco.ie](mailto:BBoyce@clarecoco.ie)



Fiona Cahill with staff from LCETB, CLDC and Employability at the Clare Connect for mental health event in Scariff Library in recognition of world mental health.

## SPORTS & RECREATION



### Active Ennis Leisure Complex

#### Gym & Pool Report

##### Irish Fisheries Board

Bord Iascaigh Mhara held a training course in the pool on October the 9th. BIM provides essential training and skill development for the Irish seafood industry.

Bord Iascaigh Mhara helps to develop the Irish Seafood Industry by providing technical expertise, business support, funding, training and promoting responsible environmental practice.



#### Health & Wellbeing Age Expo 2024

The Active Ennis team held a in the Health & Wellbeing Age Expo that took place in the West County Hotel on October 3rd. It was a fantastic opportunity to showcase the wide range of services available to our older community. The event proved to be a success providing support and information for all attendees.

The event received very positive feedback, and the turnout is a testament to the importance of the services available for older people.



#### Classes

Class numbers for our “Body blast”, “Aqua Fit” and Lunch Crunch” rose during October with upwards of 40 in the pool. Many classes such as Pilates, Step Aerobics, Evening Aqua Aerobics and Yoga returned to the going into Autumn and numbers for these classes are flourishing during October.

We continue to have a lot of interest from Instructors in renting our studio and have a wide variation of Classes. Instructors/practitioners can rent the hall using our online booking system.



#### Walkies for Well-being in Active Ennis Tim Smythe Park

A charity dog walk was held in Active Ennis Tim Smythe Park on October 27th in aid of Ennis Samaritans. The walk was part of the walkies for well-being campaign and mental health month. Samaritans' 'Walkies For Wellbeing' 2024 dog-walking challenge had over 1,000 people taking part across Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Supporters and their pooches put their best paws forward by walking 100km throughout the month to support Samaritans' mission of fewer lives lost to suicide.

Regular exercise and quality time with pets have been shown to boost wellbeing - so, it's the perfect way to celebrate Mental Health Month.



#### Footfall Report Active Ennis Leisure Complex.

Total footfall for September was 20,852. The highest total recorded footfall was on Saturday September 14th (954), this coincided with the return of Swim Lessons. The lowest recorded Footfall was on Sunday September 1st (260). The overall higher footfall may be explained by the return of school and public swimming lessons. With shorter evenings

the gym and public swimming are increasing.

Over the last 12 months, since last October the overall footfall was 250,471. The average footfall per day over the year was 688. The highest recorded daily footfall was 2,583, a gala was held on this day. The average monthly footfall was 20,873 and the highest recorded footfall was in February totaling 26,055.

### Active Ennis John O’Sullivan Park, Lees Road

Maintenance was carried out on the playing pitches in Lee’s Road for the first 3 weeks of September, this was essential to ensure that the pitch surfaces are playable and can sustain use throughout the coming 12 months.

A total of 19,519 vehicles entered the park in September, an average of 650 vehicles per day. There was an Alzheimer’s charity walk held on Sept 22nd, large numbers in attendance for walk through the woods. The CSSL Cup finals were held over the weekend of 28/29th of September with 26 finals played across the weekend.

### Active Ennis Tim Smythe Park

The meeting Room is being utilized for Art classes by Ennis Voices for Autism as a creative outlet for its members. The Soccer Sisters FC also held their AGM in the meeting room.

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

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



### General Updates

- We helped deliver several different initiatives as part European Week of Sport which took place Sept 23rd - 30th, including inclusive gymnastics, Men on the Move classes and older adultly community classes
- 2025 Core funding application has been submitted to Sport Ireland
- Clare LSP hosted successful Regional Sport Ireland Development Officer and Coordinator meetings on Oct 8th. There were over 30 Development Officers, CEO’S and Sport Ireland staff in attendance from Clare, Limerick, Galway, Tipperary, Waterford and Kerry
- We also hosted a stakeholder consultation evening as part of the Local Sports and Physical Activity Plan on Oct 15th
- Both Mary and Eimear attended the Community Information Clinic in Lisdoonvarna on Oct 16th

### Schools & Youth

- Borrowing of playground markings and sportshall athletics packs by primary schools is ongoing

- Our 6-week post-primary Sportshall Athletics programme launched in Mary Immaculate College, Lisdoonvarna on Thursday Sept 19th
- Get Going Get Rowing launched in St. Patrick’s Comprehensive School, Shannon on Friday Sept 20th
- Lizzy delivered games and activities to 5th year students in Ennis Community College on Oct 11th as part of their school’s Well-being Week

### Education & Training

- 2 more clubs have fully completed the level 1 Season Of Respect course
- The next Season of Respect course is scheduled for next month with 5 more clubs coming on board for it
- There are also 3 clubs interested in taking part in the level 2 course, which will hopefully be completed next month
- Safeguarding courses are ongoing. A full list of our upcoming courses from September - December 2024 is available on our website

### Sports Inclusion

- Inclusive gymnastics with Ennis Gymnastics Club has changed to Monday / Tuesday evenings. There are 70 children who attend these sessions
- Eire Og / Corofin GAA and Wolfe Tones GAA All-stars Inclusive Clubs are now running outdoor sessions for over 40 children with a disability
- Eire Og All- Stars were a National Finalist in the National Lottery Good Causes Awards in the Sports Category
- Derg AC have received funding through Dormant Accounts SIDP for an inclusive Athletics and Cycling Programme
- Clare comets basketball all- stars continue to run their indoor sessions on Saturdays in Ennis National School
- Both Derg AC (Saturday mornings) and Tulla AC (Thursday evenings) continue to run sessions for over 40 children with a disability
- In conjunction with Clare County Council and Movement Experts Ireland, Clare LSP are running an inclusive whole school’s physical activity programme

### Older Adults

- The weekly exercise classes that support our tutors in delivering to over 300 older adults in County Clare have taken a break for the summer months
- An activator pole walking programme with Kilrush Family Resource Centre is continuing with 8 participants

### Active Communities

- The women in sport beginner swimming lessons come to an end this week. The ladies who participated on the beginners’ courses are now able to continue on with our intermediate course taking part in 3 of the 4 locations
- Women in sports leadership course is out for expression of interest at the moment and is due to begin on

October 26th starting off with a teambuilding day in Derg Isle. There will be workshops in leadership and personal development, sports psychology, nutrition and strength and conditioning. The programme will see 20 female coaches take part fortnightly for 6 months

- The HER Moves school's collaboration series begins this week with Colaiste Muire, Ennis having workshops for all TY students with Breakthrough dance studio. 4 other schools are also beginning their programmes in the coming weeks. The other programmes include yoga, nutrition workshops, learn to lift, aerial dance and pottery
- The men on the move programmes which have taken place over the past 6 weeks which each participant getting 12 sessions of introduction to exercise. The participants are now invited to continue on with a further 6-week onboarding to physical activity classes which has also been partially subsidised
- Six female adults have now had their membership to Clare Caving Club and Caving Ireland paid for by CSP; they are currently completing two sessions with the caving club as full members
- Our Healthy DOJO Kilrush programme is at the halfway point (week 4). Participants are attending weekly exercise classes, and have completed yoga classes as part of the programme

#### Sports Hub:

- Strength & Conditioning Programme for Teen Girls in partnership with K Fitt Kilrush, is ongoing with full attendance halfway through
- Kilrush Youth Reach have begun a four-session programme with Suas Climbing Centre for teenage boys and Irish Aerial Dance for teenage girls funded through Kilrush Sports Hub funding
- Walk County Clare Initiative: Partnership with Kilrush Indian Association, participants are midway through the walking challenge
- Parkrun Events: Collaborating with Shannon, Kilrush, Clarisford Park, and Less Road parkruns to increase participation with a "Trick or Trot" Halloween event on Saturday, 26th October
- Street Soccer Tournament: Postponed due to weather, rescheduled for Friday, 1st November
- Introductory Boxing Programme for Women: Collaboration with Shannon Boxing Club to create a 6-week programme
- Cafe Connect Attendance: Participated at Shannon FRC
- An activity day planned with the Homework Club at Shannon FRC on Monday, 21st October

#### West Clare Links Project:

- A list of suitable tutors and service providers have been selected for the West Clare Links programme and include a wide variety of exercise and recreation activities
- The programme currently has 3 active participants and

is awaiting 2 further referrals

- 2 participants are engaging well with tutors and service providers, and we have engaging in conversations with Bushy Park treatment centre around how we can support them with programmes in the future

#### Club Development

- Club grants have been approved with €45,270 been allocated to 68 different clubs. There were 21 sports represented, which includes 6 inclusive clubs. There was also 8 brand new women in sport initiative supported
- The club swap shop took place on October 5th with 4 clubs hosting swap shops. All clubs gave very positive feedback and have planned to another swap shop in the new year

#### Minority Communities

- Eimear attended the Clare Migrant Integration Position Paper Presentation and Workshop on Oct 2nd
- Membership bursary applications are being received, with 1 application already approved

#### ESF+ Sport4Empowerment Programme

- Pilot with Swim Ireland: The 7 Traveller men completed the initial lessons, mixed ability within the group, a further 4 lessons are required to bring 3 up to an equal standard. Classes resuming during midterm as 3 with the support of ESF have commenced a 40-week pre apprenticeship training course with Limerick College of Further Education
- The pilot project in Lisdoonvarna targeting Ukrainian Refugees in conjunction with Weightlifting Ireland is going to be expanded and two more iterations are going to occur. A group of cancer survivors who formed a Dragon Boat club with Clare Sports Partnership assistance will be the first group. This will commence in early November and be significantly longer as the group intend to continue it post the introduction 6 weeks. A further one with IPAs will occur in Ennis also
- A 16yr old Roma boy, in Youth Reach, was identified by the Roma Support Worker in CLDC as needing support in pursuing weightlifting, he had been national underage champion in Slovakia, we have got him now registered to represent Ireland and Weightlifting Ireland have committed to fund gym membership until he reaches 18. He is going to be commencing his work experience with Clare Sports Partnership next week and we will empower him to merge his own personal talents and knowledge of the community to co design a programme specifically for the community
- Further liaising with GAA Games to develop an adult introduction to GAA aimed at International Protection Applicants. Designing an introduction to GAA for Adults. Ultimate aim is to create a football team comprised of 'New Communities', with an exhibition game in Cusack Park
- Liaising with Clare Traveller CSP to do 'walkability audits'



from traveller specific accommodation using the National Roads Authority templates - further 2 completed

- Local Crisis Response Plan for Ballaghboy was closed. The ESF programme assisted by putting together play packs x 6 for the affected families, offering the playground markings, doing 'walkability audit', liaising with support workers to offer places on summer 'inclusive camps' and ran a traveller specific teen girl swim programme during summer months
- A formalised referral system to the ESF+ role from SICAP, Local Area Employment Service and Probation Service has been initiated. This is for individuals that present to these services that have had training, are interested in training or need support getting active/sport again. Four clients have been referred and met so far

**Outdoor Recreation**

- Jess presented the Outdoor Recreation Plan at the National Blueway's Network conference in Killaloe and Portumna. The presentation outlined the role of the LSP,

OROs, and the OR plan in supporting and collaborating with local Blueway developers. The presentation was well-received by attendees

- Consultant Humphrey Murphy provided an update on the consultation process for the Clare Outdoor Recreation Plan, presenting the results to the County Outdoor Recreation Committee during an online meeting. He also outlined the upcoming public consultation dates
- Our Outdoor Recreation Officer, Jess, has been collaborating with the consultant to ensure that all key stakeholders are identified for the online consultation process as part of the plan
- The dates for the next two committee meetings have been scheduled according to availability, and calendar invitations have been sent out
- The Outdoor Recreation Plan was presented at the stakeholder meeting for the Local Sports Plan on October 15th, as both plans will need to be aligned

**WEST CLARE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT - ENNISTYMON LEA**

**North Clare Integrated Transport & Traffic Plan**

Work continues on delivering on objectives in order to improve Transport & Traffic related issues in North Clare. The North Clare LEA have been very proactive in progressing objectives from the Plan namely:

- Clockwise Trial for busses , caravans & campervans**  
Trial effective since 1st August & working very effectively



**Insertion of Signage**

Continued provision of signage to alert road users



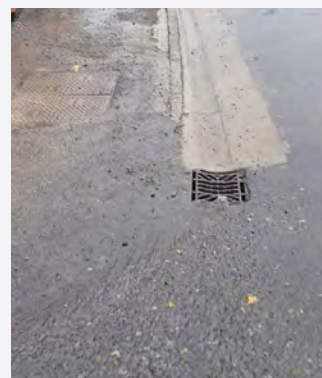
**Schedule of Municipal District Works**

**Roadworks**

Replacement of Culvert on N85 at Cullenagh, Ennistymon which involved temporary road closure & working through the night to prevent disruption



**Drainage Works - Ennistymon**



**Footpath Works - Roadford ,Doolin**



**LIS - Clouna**



**Bat Box** - provided to facilitate transfer of bats to allow demolition works progress at McInerneys Lane to facilitate car park



**Hedgecutting - Back Rd, Liscannor to Doolin**



**Doolin Car Pk - clean up after Storm Ashley**



# TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

## Work to commence on the Ballycuggaran Water Sports Facility



*Pictured at the Contract Signing: Front Row L to R: Fiona Monaghan, Fáilte Ireland, Pat Carmody, Contractor, Cathaoirleach Cllr Alan O'Callaghan, Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Cllr Joe Cooney, Cathaoirleach Killaloe MD. Back L to R: Ann Reynolds, A/Director of Rural Development, Marie Healy, Fáilte Ireland, Sharon Carmody, PS Carmody Contractors, Lisa Ruttle, Fáilte Ireland, Aldo Andreucetti, Clare Co Co., John O'Malley, A/Director Tourism Development, Nicola Killeen, Tourism Department, Alan Farrell, Director of Physical Development.*

Clare County Council signed a contract with PS Carmody Contractors on October 30, 2024 to begin the construction on the €1.2 million Ballycuggaran Water Sports Facility on the shores of Lough Derg in Ireland's Hidden Heartlands. Developed by Fáilte Ireland in partnership with Clare County Council, the new water sports facility will provide hot showers, toilet facilities, accessible toilet, changing areas, secure storage, induction spaces, equipment washdown and orientation points. Accessibility and sustainability will be key focus points for the project, ensuring full wheelchair access and the installation of solar photovoltaic panels.

Nestled at the foot of the rolling hills of East Clare on the western shores of Lough Derg, Ballycuggaran is one of the

eight international Blue Flag beaches in Clare and has become increasingly popular in recent years as a location for other water-based activities such as kayaking, paddle-boarding and sailing.

This project is part of Fáilte Ireland's Platforms for Growth Scheme, funded under the Government's Project Ireland 2040 strategy. The first Fáilte Ireland investment scheme of its kind, it specifically targets 'platforms' or projects that have the greatest potential to grow tourism across Ireland and strategically enhance the Irish tourism offering to meet visitor needs. Ballycuggaran is the third water sports facility to begin construction under this scheme, with a total of 19 facilities to be developed across 13 counties.

## Craggaunowen Celebrates 50 Years

The 50th Anniversary of Craggaunowen was marked on Friday 27th of September when past and present members of staff gathered with representatives from Clare County Council, Clare Tourism, the Hunt Museum, and members of the local community to celebrate. It also marked the end of a very successful season as Craggaunowen saw an increase of 27% in visitor numbers this year.





The site has undergone significant investment which saw the addition of a new Folklore Trail, upgrades to the fencing, painting and heating of the castle, and new seating and audio-visual to complement the Brendan Boat.

## Loop Head Lighthouse extended season and welcomed sponsored walk



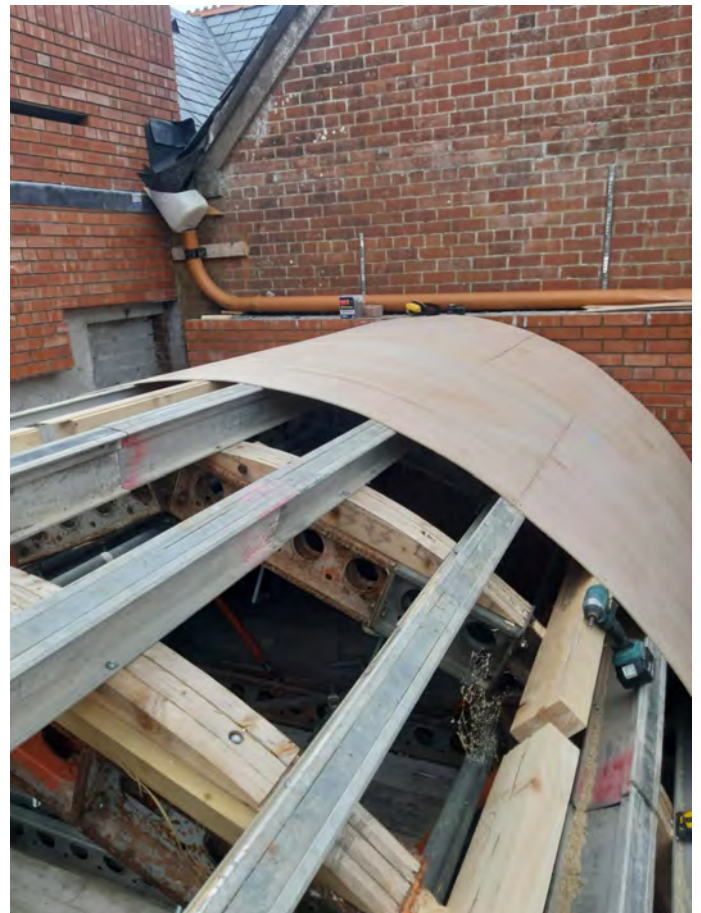
Loop Head Lighthouse was due to close for the season at the end of September but due to the number of foreign tourists still in the area and a request from the Loop Head Tourism Network it was decided to open for weekends and bank holidays during October. The Lighthouse Keepers Cottage remains open for bookings all year round.

This gave the opportunity to welcome the end of an incredible sponsored walk by a cancer survivor Mark Phillips. Although Mark lives in Worcestershire in the UK he spent a large part of his recuperation in Loop Head and decided that he would walk from his home to the Lighthouse as soon as he was fit enough. He was raising money for three charities including the West Clare Cancer Centre. It was a pleasure to welcome him to Loop Head.



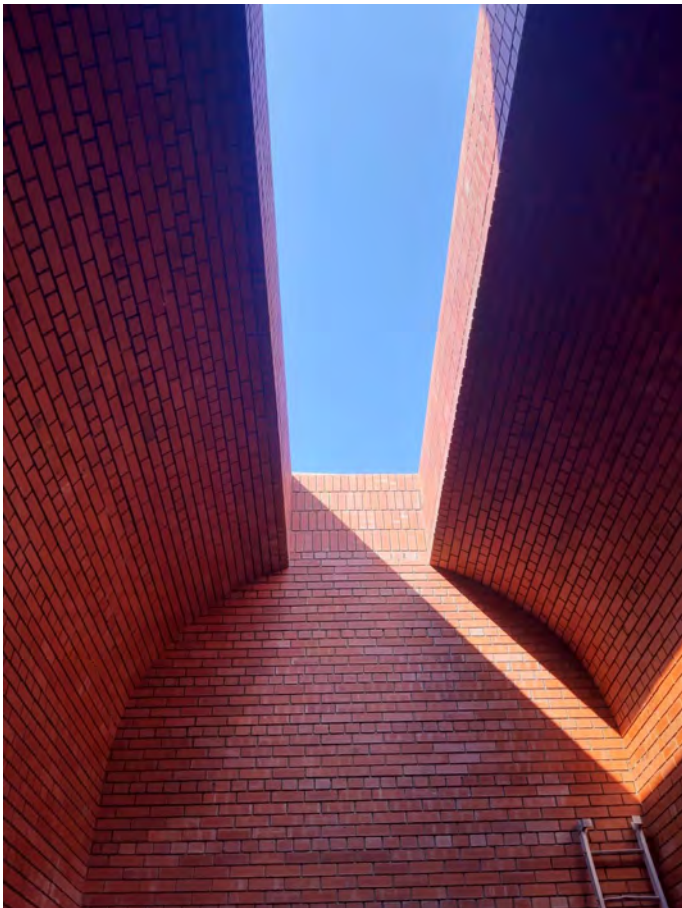
Loop Head Lighthouse was represented at the Great Lighthouses of Ireland Gathering hosted by Valentia Island Lighthouse team. This event also marked the launch of the Great Lighthouses of Ireland Strategy 2025-2030.

## Inis Cealtra / Holy Island



Work is continuing at the Rectory. Construction of the extension and the double height curved ceiling is complete. The complexity of such a feature and finished result is testament to the high standard of craftsmanship involved. Indoor and

outdoor scaffolding is due to be removed in the next four weeks which will showcase this feature. The tender for the fit out of the visitor interpretation centre is underway and the successful contractor will be announced in the coming weeks. The Arts Office Clare County Council have commenced the Percentage for Arts Scheme for the Rectory.



The Design Team are coordinating and conducting the final checks for the Part 10 An Bord Pleanála Planning Application for Holy Island which is due to be lodged before year end. Exercises considering broad ranging issues such as visitor management, accessibility and highly sensitive archaeological testing are complete.

## Clare Business Excellence Awards



Both Craggaunowen and Bunratty Castle and Folk Park have been named as finalists in this years Clare Business Excellence Awards for Best Tourism Experience. An independent judge recently visited the sites as part of the judging process where they received a full tour and focused on the services and facilities provided, commitment to responsible tourism and the innovation and creativity of the experience.

Bunratty Castle and Folk Park is also a finalist in the category for Best Use of Digital Marketing and Social Media. Hosted by Ennis Chamber of Commerce, the winners will be announced at a gala dinner in The Inn at Dromoland on November 27th.

## Journey to Europe



Bunratty Castle and Folk Park features on Australian travel show "Journey to Europe", broadcasting to more than 300,000 Australians on the national TV station Nine Network and its streaming service 9Now. David Whitehall, the show's host, explored our magical grounds, met our iconic Irish Wolfhounds, and experienced the best of Irish culture.

Watch Here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wkx60TyCM0>

## Clare & Limerick Networking Event



Fáilte Ireland held its annual Clare & Limerick Tourism Industry Networking Event on the 8th of October in Dromoland Castle. There was great representation from Clare Tourism at the event which provides a wonderful opportunity to connect with many other visitor attractions, experiences and accommodation providers in the region.

## Fáilte Ireland B2B Luxury & Leisure Roadshow 2024



Una Young, Specialised Travel Services and Sharon Malone, Assistant Sales & Marketing Manager Clare Tourism West and Northwest.

The Fáilte Ireland B2B Luxury & Leisure Roadshow took place on the 16th of October in the Sligo Park Hotel. Throughout the day, Sharon Malone, Assistant Sales and Marketing Manager of Clare Tourism West & Northwest met with 24 Tour Operators looking to bring international visitors to Ireland. Sharon presented on the Cliffs of Moher Experience, Loop Head Lighthouse and Vandeleur Walled Garden & Visitor Centre, encouraging tour operators to spend more time in County Clare.

## AVEA Conference 2024



Geraldine Enright, General Manager Cliffs of Moher Experience Clare Tourism, Catherine Flanagan, CEO AVEA, Anne O'Donoghue, CEO of Irish Heritage Trust and incoming chair.

The AVEA (Association of Visitor Experiences and Attractions) conference recently took place in Kilkenny, with the theme "Innovation, Agility, and Inclusion" on October 13th, 14th and 15th. During the event, Geraldine Enright, outgoing Chairperson, handed over the reins to Anne O'Donoghue from Strokestown Park House. Building on last year's successful conference in Clare, AVEA continues to pride itself on its ethos of collaboration and knowledge sharing. As previous attendees will testify, the networking and engagement opportunities at the conference are second to none, making it a key event for leaders in Ireland's tourism and visitor attraction sectors.



Charlotte, Erin, Adrienne: Representing Clare Tourism East was Charlotte Rebers, Operations Manager, Erin Malone, Assistant Sales and Marketing Manager, and Adrienne O'Flynn, Sales and Marketing Manager.

## Clare Echo Walk Our Ways and Our Loops

**Explore Clare, it's the perfect time...**

**Explore Clare it's the perfect time to step outside to walk our ways and our Loops**

THERE'S something extra special about October in Clare. It's the perfect time to step outside and enjoy everything the county has to offer. Clare is a county of adventure and relaxation, from exploring the famous cliffs and coastlines to discovering hidden historical gems. It is an opportunity to create unforgettable memories.

Walking is one of the best ways to fully enjoy the county this month. A network of quiet country roads, forest paths, mountains and coastal trails traverse the county. For those who prefer a more active walk, there are many well-signposted routes, including national trails that are well supported. There are also great loop walks suited to walkers of different levels of fitness. Our cliff-top, mountain-top, and hill-top walks are spectacular.

**7 WALKS & LOOPS TO EXPLORE:**

- Ballyvaughan Loop:** Enjoy this loop trail near Ennis. It is a beautiful peaceful spot just outside of Ennis and is generally considered moderately challenging. It takes an average of 1.5 to 2 hours to complete. This trail is great for walking and jogging, and it's unlikely you will encounter many other people while exploring. Dogs are welcome but must be on a leash. It covers an area of 2,000 hectares and is an important site for biodiversity. This time of year, it is very good for wildflower especially daisies.
- Dromore Loop Walk and Woodland Nature Reserve:** Dromore Woodland Nature Reserve is a picturesque area spanning approximately 450 hectares in the southwest, part of the Burren region. Country lanes, trees and well-guided nature trails, each taking approximately 45 minutes to complete. A section of the renowned 160m Mid-Clare Way passes through the reserve. The walk is a mix of forest (those seeking a more extensive experience). The loop trail intersects with the Coastline Nature Trail and the Mid-Clare Way, commencing at the main car park.
- The Ballyvaughan Loop Walk, near Kiltalee, overlooking Lough Derg:** This loop walk is located in the heart of Ballyvaughan near Kiltalee. The walk overlooks Lough Derg. The surrounding valley and the hills that stretch from Carriferry to O'Connell. The loop walk is marked in both directions - to get the best views walk the trail in an anticlockwise direction.
- The Ballyvaughan Wood Loop:** The Ballyvaughan Wood Loop, green lanes, woodland and cross country, explores the valley between the beautiful village of Ballyvaughan with scenic views of the surrounding Burren. The loop walk is marked in both directions - to get the best views walk the trail in an anticlockwise direction.
- Experience the 12 O'Clock Hills Walks:** The 12 O'Clock Hills (12 O'Clock Hills) is located 5 km (3.1 miles) south of Ballyvaughan. The 12 O'Clock Hills are designed for anyone who wants to get walking in the county. The walk is suitable for solo walkers to groups of friends and family.
- The Shannon Town Estuary Looped Walks:** A beautiful trail around Shannon, situated on the banks of the Shannon River Estuary. Shannon Town Estuary. Trails consists of loop walks, the Shannon Town Estuary Yellow Loop (1.5 km), and the Shannon Town Estuary Blue Loop (1.5 km), both taking in the scenic area around the estuary. The Shannon Town Estuary loop walks in Harcourt Park which was one of several farmhouses located along the old railway into Tullymore as well as the Shannon Wetlands in the town. This walk takes in views across the Shannon Estuary housing an abundance of Flora and Fauna many of which are highlighted as the signed look-out spots. The walks are easily accessible from many areas of the town, beginning at the Loan Centre with more parking at Lisnamoghla. The walks are noted as Easy for walkers.
- The East Clare Way:** The East Clare Way is a stunning circular route that crosses the Slieve Donard Mountains before descending to the Clare coastal areas around Tuam and Ennis. It appeals to walkers who like a bit of wilderness and breathtaking scenery and those interested in monuments of the past. It is a haven for those who enjoy hiking and walking, with lush green hills, rolling moorlands and coastal scenery around every corner. There is something for everyone.

For more great ideas to enjoy this month [www.VisitClare.ie](http://www.VisitClare.ie)

October is the perfect time of year to promote Walking Clare's

Ways and Loops. As featured in the Clare Echo dated 11th October.

## Clare Health & Wellbeing Expo 3rd October



The Visit Clare Team were delighted to participate at the Clare Health & Wellbeing Age Expo 2024 at Treacy's West County Hotel, to showcase all the County has to offer. With over 50 stands present it was a great opportunity to promote the County and network with both the public and exhibitors.

## Clare's Sustainability Journey: Common Knowledge Harvest Day Site Visit:

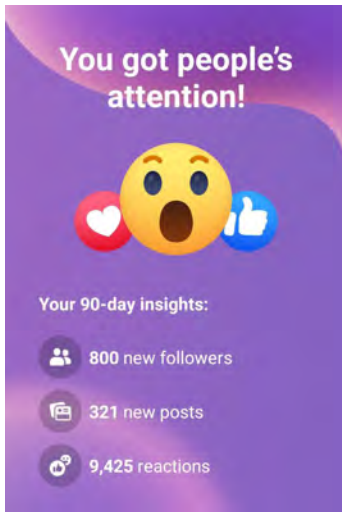


As part of Clare's Sustainability journey, for the County to be the first county-wide certified sustainable tourism destination in Ireland, representatives from the Tourism Directorate went to visit Common Knowledge during Harvest Day, Sunday, 13th October.

Common Knowledge is a brilliant initiative in Kilfenora, North Clare to help those looking to become more sustainable and to minimise their impact on the planet while improving their mental health.

It was founded on the belief that by coming together to share basic skills, create useful resources and connect as a community, we can bring more sustainability and joy into our lives.

## Marketing & Promotion: Spotlight on the Website across the Visit Clare platforms:



There are weekly promotional campaigns scheduled across the Visit Clare platforms (Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn), directing traffic to the VisitClare.ie website. These posts continually evolve to include seasonal opportunities, highlights on our towns and spotlights to the range and variety of tourism businesses within the County, featuring Accommodation, Attractions, Activities, Festivals & Events, and dining. Traffic, reach and followers are recording increases across each platform:

The 90-day Insights for Meta Business Suite recording:

- 800 new followers.
- 321 new posts.
- 9,425 reactions.

## Visit Clare Newsletter



Here is a link to the Visit Clare Tourism Newsletter, October 2024, sharing Clare Tourism News, Views, and Opportunities:

<https://preview.mailerlite.io/preview/672751/emails/133978272020039373>

If you wish to sign up to receive it:

<https://visitclare.ie/trade/>



## Halloween in County Clare

### Monsters, Misfits & Mayhem at Bunratty

Monsters, Misfits and Mayhem descended on Bunratty Castle and Folk Park for the annual Halloween celebration which took place from the 26th to the 28th of October. The park was transformed into a spooky wonderland with a frightening array of activities including wicked wakes, talking heads, the Witches Kitchen and a Bed of Nails. Monsieur Gusto also returned this year for a thrilling performance as he defied gravity with his juggling, escapology and acrobatic feats. Adding to this year's spectacle was The Red Devil, whose fiery presence is a force to be reckoned with, The Séance, where adults are invited to step back in time to a 19th century parlour séance, and The Shrinking Illusion, a mind-bending spectacle as reality bends before your eyes.





## Halloween at the Cliffs of Moher Experience



Halloween at the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre turned into a haunted haven from October 26th to October 31st. The Visitor Centre was covered in spooky decorations offering the perfect photo opportunities. Activities included: Embark on a Halloween Clue Hunt across the Cliffs!; Pick up clues to find hidden locations;

There was daily facepainting on site from 12pm to 3pm. Listen to spooky stories on the Visitor Centre TV; Sweet treats available for the kids! Pumpkin spiced lattés in the Cliffs View Café.

## Vandeleur Walled Garden & Visitor Centre

**HALLOWEEN**  
AT VANDELEUR WALLED GARDEN & VISITOR CENTRE  
OCTOBER 26TH - NOVEMBER 1ST 2024

SATURDAY 26TH, MONDAY 28TH, WEDNESDAY 30TH  
1:00PM : PUMPKIN CARVING DEMONSTRATION BY KAROLY TOROK

MONDAY 28TH  
12:00PM: SEASONAL PUMPKIN FLOWER ARRANGEMENT DEMONSTRATION BY PHIL CROWLEY

WEDNESDAY 30TH  
12:30PM & 2:00PM: FOLKLORE & STORYTELLING WITH CLARE STORYTELLER, BALOR OTHERWORLD

WEDNESDAY 30TH  
ALL DAY: FACE PAINTING

Vandeleur Walled Garden & Visitor Centre prepared some frightfully fun Halloween-themed activities for Halloween Week. From October 26th to November 1st, for a FRIGHT amongst the flowers!

The full schedule of events was as follows:

- Saturday 26th, Monday 28th, and Wednesday 30th, 1:00pm: Pumpkin Carving Demonstration by Karoly Torok.
- Monday 28th, 12:00pm: Seasonal Pumpkin Flower Arrangement Demonstration by Phil Crowley.
- Wednesday 30th, 12:30pm & 2:00pm: Folklore & Storytelling with Clare storyteller, Balor Otherworld.
- Wednesday 30th: Face painting.

Daring to enter the gates of the Haunted Garden, brings the public to the Screech Walk—a spine-tingling, interactive mystery trail where all can amble down haunted pathways while trying to solve the Grim Garden's Secret.

## Halloween: Let's Scare Clare: Get the Events Guide:



**GET THE CLARE HALLOWEEN EVENTS GUIDE ONLINE**

With Halloween just around the corner, County Clare offers a captivating selection of events to enjoy the season. Explore the many opportunities for frights and fun!

**ADVENTURES FOR ALL**

For those who want a fun-filled Halloween adventure with a hint of mystery, enjoy these local events. **After Dark in Clarisford Park in Killaloe** offers an evening of storytelling in the park setting, perfect for families and friends to enjoy the Halloween atmosphere together. Meanwhile, **Monsters, Mifflis, and Mayhem at Bunratty Castle and Folk Park** provides fun for all ages, with Halloween antics and plenty of surprises to keep the whole family entertained. Watch out for witches, talking heads, and beds of nails. Or get to the **Ennis International Fantastic Film Festival**, October 25th to 27th 2024. These events are a great way to enjoy Halloween for all.

**FAMILY-FRIENDLY HALLOWEEN FUN**

Halloween in Clare is packed with family-friendly events that bring fun and excitement to everyone. **Spooky Halloween Fun at Moher Farm in Lisconnor** is a must-visit for families, with spooky decorations, face painting, magic, and plenty of farmyard fun for the kids. Or, head to **Spooky Season at the Cliffs of Moher Experience** in Lisconnor, where the Visitor Centre will be fully decorated for Halloween, offering a family-friendly clue hunt, daily face painting, and spooky stories to delight the little ones. Treats like pumpkin spiced lattés and Halloween-themed muffins will be on offer for everyone to enjoy at the cafés. For those who like to get hands-on, the **Halloween Pottery Kids Camp at the Charm Bee Studio** in Labasheeda lets children get creative and make their own spooky pottery designs to take home. These events are perfect for families looking to get into the Halloween spirit together.



**NATURE'S HAUNTS AND HISTORIC ADVENTURES**

For those who love a bit of adventure with a spooky twist, these events offer just the right mix of mystery and fun. **Halloween at Doolin Cave** transforms the natural wonder of the cave into a Halloween spectacle, with spooky cave tours every hour. On the **Ennis Dark History Tour**, step into the fascinating past of Ennis, where local legends and stories of bygone times reveal a hidden, slightly spooky side to the town. Over in Kilmuckish, the **Halloween Screech Walk at Vandeleur Walled Garden and Visitor Centre** invites families to explore the beautiful, haunted gardens, with storytelling, magic, and mystery awaiting around every corner. For an evening adventure, the **Halloween Night Walk at the 12 O'Clock Hills** is the perfect way for the family to experience the outdoors under the stars – enjoy the hot chocolate and sweet treats!

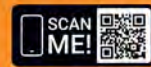
**CELEBRATIONS OF SAMHAIN AND MYTH**

Dive into the ancient traditions of Samhain with a celebration that brings Irish folklore to life. The **Samhain Púca Storytelling Festival** at the Michael Cusack Heritage Centre in Carron invites families to mingle with ghosts and witches for captivating tales of myths, magic, and the supernatural with renowned storyteller, author, and broadcaster Eddie Lenihan. This festival offers a fun way to learn about the rich history behind Halloween and Samhain.

View the Clare Halloween Events Guide Online

For details on these events and more, see the 'Scare Clare' Halloween Events Guide.

[www.VisitClare.ie/scares](http://www.VisitClare.ie/scares)



[VisitClare.ie/scares](http://www.VisitClare.ie/scares)

The local Tourism Providers were invited to submit their Halloween offerings to the Clare Halloween Events Guide. 15 events were submitted showcasing adventures for all to enjoy this season. It was also featured to the Clare Echo and the Independent online [Halloween bank holiday in Clare: Five activities to help celebrate the spooky season | Irish Independent](#)

[www.VisitClare.ie/scares](http://www.VisitClare.ie/scares)

## WEST CLARE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT - KILRUSH LEA

### Mars Cinema Public Consultation event



West Clare MD continued the construction of a new footpath on Pella Road, Kilrush. The footpath will connect a new housing development with the existing public footpath. Works are funded from development contributions.



West Clare MD repaired sections of the public footpath at Cross Village and along the promenade at Kilkee.



Tourism Development International Ltd were commissioned earlier this year to carry out a concept Feasibility Study for the Mars Cinema, Kilrush in consultation with Clare County Council and Kilrush Town Team. It was really encouraging to see people in their droves attend a public consultation evening which was held in The Town Hall, Kilrush from 4pm to 7pm on Thursday 3rd October.

West Clare MD installed a new duct for ESB cable at Cappa. This will allow the toilet block at Cappa to be connected to an electricity supply. The duct will also allow a connection for possible future public events held at the proposed public space which will be created as a part of the Cappa Enhancement Plan.

It was a great opportunity for the young, old, residents and business owners of Kilrush to come together and share their ideas and vision for the future development of Kilrush and contribute to the input of the Feasibility Study which is due to be completed in the coming weeks.

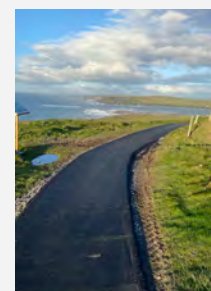


### Schedule of Municipal District Works 2024:

In the last month the West Clare MD has commenced / completed a number of Local Improvement Schemes.



Kilkee Cliff Walk improvement works were carried out under the Outdoor Recreation Grant funding in October 2024.



### Recruitment Competitions October

#### Eligibility Exercises & Desktop Shortlisting

- Fleet Manager
- Chief Technician
- Traveller Liaison Officer

#### Interviews

- Executive Architectural Conservation Officer
- Executive Planner
- Assistant Planner
- Graduate Planner
- Clerical Officer- Shortlisting
- Recycling Assistant
- Internal Auditor (desktop S/L & Final Interview)
- SGSS - Killaloe MD
- Foreman - Killaloe MD
- IS Analyst Developer (Networks)
- Heavy Vehicle Mechanic
- Retained Part-time Fire fighters - Killaloe, Shannon & Kilkee

#### The following competitions were advertised:

- Energy Officer
- Business Advisor, LEO
- Executive Chartered Building Surveyor
- Plant Operator A - Shannon MD
- General Operative - Killaloe MD
- Plant Operator A - Killaloe
- Assistant Staff Officer
- Acting SEO

# TRAINING PROGRAMMES / WEBINARS / CONFERENCES/ INFORMATION SESSIONS

## OCTOBER

- Gaelchultúr 10 Week Online Course
- Irish Language Training for Telephone & Frontline Staff
- Microsoft Excel Advanced
- Microsoft Excel Intermediate
- Microsoft Power BI and Power Automate Demo
- Microsoft Teams
- NALA Plain English Webinar Series
- Outdoor Line Manager Training

### **Essential Skillz on-line Courses:**

- Conflict Resolution
- Health & Safety Induction
- Managing Change
- Slips, Trips & Falls
- Treating Customers Fairly

### **Health & Safety:**

- Abrasive Wheels
- First Aid Refresher 2-Day Course
- Manual Handling
- Prevention Management of Aggression & Violence
- Safe Pass

October was Cyber Security Month. Metacompliance Training was delivered online to support this.

## October Wellbeing Focus

Breast Cancer Awareness



**Breast Cancer Awareness Month**



**Breast Cancer In Women**



**Be Breast Aware**



**Marie Keating Foundation - Mobile Information Units**

### Employee Wellbeing

In October the Wellbeing Hub focus was Breast Cancer Awareness Month. A Financial Wellbeing Webinar was provided to staff about Budget 2025 Tax Tips & Tricks. A Menopause event took place in Glor in collaboration with Healthy Clare. The event was very well attended by staff and the public with lots of information provided as supports.

### Unions

The Human Resources Department engages with Unions on various matters.

### Commercial Rates

Businesses in County Clare have received more than €6 million to date in grant funding under the Government's Increased Cost of Business scheme. The Scheme is in its final stages with over that 2,370 Clare businesses having received funding under the scheme.

The ICOB grant was designed by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment to help SMEs with the increased costs associated with running a business and was administered by the Commercial Rates Team in Clare Co Co.

### Power Up Grant

As part of Budget 2025, the Government has announced a new Power Up Grant to assist businesses in hospitality, retail and beauty sectors. The Power Up Grant has a budget of €170m and

the grant for eligible businesses is €4,000. There are two types of qualifying businesses:

- a business that received the 2nd payment of ICOB and continues to meet the ICOB criteria.
- businesses in the hospitality and retail sector that did not have a rates bill in 2023 and may qualify if they meet the criteria. These businesses will be notified separately.

The main eligibility criteria are the same as for the Increased Cost of Business Scheme:

- Your business must be a commercially trading entity currently operating from a property that is commercial rateable.
- Your business must be trading at the time of submission and intend to continue trading for at least three months from the date of your submission (including those seasonally closing businesses who intend to reopen in Spring 2025).
- Your rates account must be up to date. Businesses on payment plans may be deemed compliant.
- Your business must be tax compliant and possess a valid Tax Registration Number.

The on-line applications portal opened on 24th Oct 2024 and will close for applications on 8th Nov 2024 when the process of review and validation of these submissions will commence. Indications are that the grant will be paid out by the beginning of Dec 2024.

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

### Bhavesh Patadiya wins, Rising IT Star in the Public Service

Bhavesh Patadiya, GIS Officer in Clare County Council, Recently won with the prestigious Rising IT Star award at this year's Public Sector Digital Transformation Awards in Dublin for developing a digitalised system to support lifeguards provide an improved service. Funded by the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery, and Reform, this lifeguard digitisation project enhances decision-making and resource allocation. Bhavesh, originally from India and with 14 years of experience working in Dubai, joined Clare County Council nearly two years ago. The project, inspired by the environment team's request to convert a cumbersome paper-based recording system to a digital solution, resulted in an app and a dashboard for beach lifeguard supervisors to efficiently monitor and record data.

## FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

Lifeguards can now report incidents in real-time, which has improved beach safety through faster response times and more effective management. The GIS and wider ICT team have developed similar digital solutions for Human Resources, Housing, Fire Services, and Environment section to streamline paper-based solution.

Additionally, special thanks were extended to Brendan Flynn and Clare McGrath for their expertise in defining business requirements and ensuring a 100% usage by the lifeguards, and to Alfie Jones, Jim O’Sullivan, and Kevin O’Reilly for their technical support. Their collaborative efforts were critical to the project’s success. The GIS team are currently working on a solution for property management and looks forward to further collaborations and innovations in the future.



## PROCUREMENT

The following Clare County Council tender competitions were published on eTenders in the period from 24th September to 29th October inclusive:

Tender Name	RFT ID	Response deadline	Procedure
Claureen New Link Road	4567402	02/12/2024	Open
Tender for the Construction of Two Dwellings at Shallee Drive and Cloughleigh, Ennis, Co. Clare	4565644	22/11/2024	Open
Multi Supplier Framework Agreement for the provision of Property, Valuation and Associated services to Clare County Council	4531482	27/11/2024	Open
Ennis National School - Safe Routes to School Scheme	4496638	31/10/2024	Open
Provision of Consultancy Services for the Design and Delivery of Drumcliff Burial Ground Extension	4426487	16/10/2024	Open
Single Supplier Framework for the provision of Cash in Transit services	4383638	23/10/2024	Open

# PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Town Centre First

#### New Kilrush Town Team elected and Town Centre First Plan to commence.

A series of meetings took place in Kilrush Town Hall during September and October with significant interest from the public in building a strong Town Team. A new Kilrush Town Team, which is fully aligned with the Town Centre First framework, was elected on 14th October 2024. Hiliary Gleeson was elected as Chairperson along with a new Town Team Executive. The outgoing Town Team was acknowledged for their work and dedication, many of whom will be represented on the new Wider Kilrush Town Team.

The first Steering Group meeting took place on 9th October to commence the preparation of a Town Centre First Plan for Kilrush and a consultant has been appointed to assist in preparing this Plan. There will be strong input from the newly formed Town Team and the wider public. A full programme of public consultation will be rolled out over the next 12 months.



#### Newly elected Kilrush Town Team Executive:

L-R: (front row) Joanne Haffey, Sharon Malone, David Collins, Hiliary Gleeson (Chairperson), Paul Edson, (back row) Cllr Ian Lynch, Chris Koble, Brian Comerford, Sean Lally, Lily de Sylva and Cllr Rita McInerney.

#### Town Teams being established in Tulla and Lisdoonvarna

The Town Centre First Department in conjunction with the Municipal Districts and Rural Development & Community Officers hosted a series of meetings in both Tulla and Lisdoonvarna during October as part of its programme to establish new Town Teams.



Tulla Town Team meeting with presentation on Town Centre Health Check by Queens University - Joan Tarmey, Town Regeneration Officer presenting feedback on Town Teams in Tulla.

Presentations were also given by Queens University on Town Centre Health Checks in both Tulla and Lisdoonvarna. Further meetings are planned for Clarecastle community. Darren Carroll gave a presentation on the role of Rural & Community Development Officer and how they can assist groups with things like succession planning, setting up a constitution, and funding streams.



Darren Carroll, Rural & Community Development Officer presenting to Tulla Town Team

#### THRIVE Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme

Clare County Council is participating in a brand-new scheme entitled THRIVE Town Centre First Heritage Revival. It is funded by the government under the ERDF Regional Programmes through the Southern Regional Assembly. The initiative aims to revitalise one vacant or heritage/historic building in Ennis town centre transforming it for community use.



Students from Coláiste Muire participating in Thrive Ennis engagement exercise in the Civic Room, Buttermarket, Ennis.



Students from CBS Primary School Ennis exploring a Big Ideas exercise in the Council Chamber at Clare County Council with Alistair MacDonald, Allies & Morrison.



Students from CBS Primary School and Holy Family Seniors participating in Thrive Ennis engagement exercises in the Council Chamber at Clare County Council. L-R back row: Kate Moloney, Forward Planning; Alistair MacDonald, Allies & Morrison; Marie Lynch, Town Centre First Department, Antony Rifkin and Anna Sproule, Allies & Morrison; Grainne McCormack and Joan Tarmey, Town Centre First Department; Sean Lenihan, Ennis Municipal District join students from CBS Primary School and Holy Family Seniors.



A third citizen and engagement session was held in the evening for the wider public in the Civic Room. Attendees were invited to engage in a participatory process on potential community uses for heritage buildings in Ennis Town Centre.

A series of citizen and stakeholder engagement events were held on 21st October with separate sessions held in the Council Chamber for primary and Secondary Schools in Ennis in the Civic Room. The consultants worked closely with students to develop ideas on floorplans to explore ideas for community uses that they would like to see in Ennis.

As part of the process, an Integrated Urban Strategy focusing on heritage properties is being developed, which will identify and prioritise projects that encourage the conservation and adaptive reuse of Ennis’ extensive building heritage, and address vacancy and dereliction in the Town Centre. This is in line with Action 21 of the Ennis 2040 Strategy.



Helen Quinn, Senior Planner chatting with students from CBS Primary School Ennis.

THRIVE Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme supports local authorities across the country and their citizens to regenerate town centres by transforming vacant or derelict heritage buildings within key town centres through renovation, renewal, and adaptive reuse. It will deliver on policies set out in the National Planning Framework and Southern Regional Spatial Economic Strategy.





Carmel Kirby, Director of Services chatting with attendees at Thrive Ennis event.

Thrive Funding provides an opportunity to return one vacant heritage building back into reuse in Ennis Town Centre, whilst addressing community needs. The consultants will bring forward designs to planning stage to regenerate/adapt a heritage building and it is expected to apply for Thrive Stream 2 funding in March 2025.



Grainne McCormack, Town Centre First Department engaging with CBS Primary School student at Thrive Ennis event.



Members of public discussing heritage buildings in Ennis at Thrive Ennis engagement event.

## FORWARD PLANNING

### One Shannon Hub

A briefing was held with the Shannon Municipal District Councillors on the One Shannon Hub transformational project on 25th October 2024. The Councillors were updated on the significance of the project which will create a business and civic centre of regional importance in the heart of Shannon town. The final draft concept design was outlined and discussed along with the social and economic impact of the project and the requirement to submit a URDF funding application as soon as Call 4 is announced nationally. The Shannon MD Councillors welcomed the update and requested that the project progress as outlined.



### Kilrush Maritime Training Centre

Work is continuing on the Kilrush Maritime Training Centre Project to identify a suitable funding stream to cover the remaining funding gap within the project. The Project Team are liaising with Enterprise Ireland in relation to the Smart Regions Fund and discussions on this should conclude in the coming at which point Clare MEZ can decide on the suitability of this scheme for Kilrush Maritime Training Centre.

### Offshore Wind Skills Action

The Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science published in October a report on the Offshore Skills requirements required to deliver on Ireland's ambition to deliver at least 5 GW of installed offshore wind capacity by 2030 with a further 2 GW in development for non-grid uses, including green hydrogen. The report is a key output of the Skills and Workforce Workstream of the Offshore Wind Energy Programme which outlines the activities required to drive delivery of offshore wind targets in Ireland. It follows on from the report Building Our Potential: Ireland's Offshore Wind Skills and Talent Needs by BVG Associates in collaboration with Green Terch Skillnet, Wind Energy Ireland and Gavin and Doherty Geosolutions and Beauchamps. The report identifies Ireland's training provision and the potential gaps in provision, which could hinder the development of offshore wind in Ireland.



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

Following the decision taken by the SIFP Steering Group to reconvene the Environmental Sub-Group, a meeting was convened by Clare County Council on the 26th of September. The Environmental Sub-Group is chaired by Clare County Council with representation from the adjoining Local Authorities, IFI, NPWS, EirGrid and Shannon Foynes Port Company. The group have commenced work on establishing a prioritisation of the key data gaps in terms of the environmental baseline for the Shannon Estuary which would be deemed significant in terms of future potential development. It will look at the draft South Coast DMAP in terms of lessons learnt and the data requirement identified within the environmental assessments to inform future development.

**Shannon Chamber Mid-West Sustainability Conference**

The Economic Directorate were involved in the recent Shannon Chamber Sustainability Week, Sustainability Conference. A day-long conference, held in Westpark Innovation Campus, which involved presentations by The Shannon Airport Group, Lilly Limerick, Element Six, Edwards Lifesciences, Heraeus Precious Metals Ltd., ESB, Shannon Foynes Port Company, SEAI and Clare County Council. The keynote address was delivered by Brian O’Kennedy, managing director, Goodbody Clearstream. The conference also included a street event, where companies showcased projects that they have undertaken to help reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Sheila Downes (Environmental Assessment Officer) presented on the

pioneering work Clare County Council are doing to continue to position the Shannon Estuary as a key enabler for economic development and predominantly maritime development associated with the Offshore Renewable Energy sector. Through the acquisition of key environmental baseline data, the Shannon Estuary will be a front runner in terms of planning for the future sustainable development of the estuary. The work currently being undertaken and led by Clare County Council delivers on a key action of the Shannon Estuary Taskforce Report.



Eoin Gavin, president, Shannon Chamber, pictured with the presenters in the afternoon session of the Mid-West Sustainability conference (front seated): Sheila Downes, Clare County Council and Sean Hegarty, ESB Generation & Trading. Back (l-r): Brian O’Kennedy, Goodbody Clearstream (keynote speaker); Pat Keating, Shannon Foynes Port Company; Ronan Keogh, Fine Grain Property; Fergus Sharkey, SEAI; and Barry Gavin, conference chair. Photograph by Eamon Ward

CONSERVATION AND BUILT HERITAGE

**Section 57 Applications**

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

Section 57 Declarations	October 2024 up to & including 31/10/2024	Total (Valid) Year to date 2024
No. of Section 57 Declaration Requests received	0	22

HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY

**Clare Schools Biodiversity Workshops 2024**

613 primary and secondary school students across County Clare participated in biodiversity work-shops held during September and October 2024 through the ‘Clare Schools Biodiversity Programme’ coordinated by Clare County Council’s Biodiversity Officer and separately the ‘Heritage in Schools Scheme’ supported by the Heritage Council and also coordinated by Clare

County Council’s Biodiversity Officer. A range of activities were covered in the workshop including developing a habitat map on school grounds, outdoor biodiversity assessment of school grounds and habitat identification, leaf artwork, identification of native trees, bird identification and bird drawings; and setting up bird feeders and devising a bird monitoring programme for students to monitor wild birds, freshwater invertebrate

identification, invertebrate model making using clay. The workshops promote awareness and education of biodiversity to younger groups.

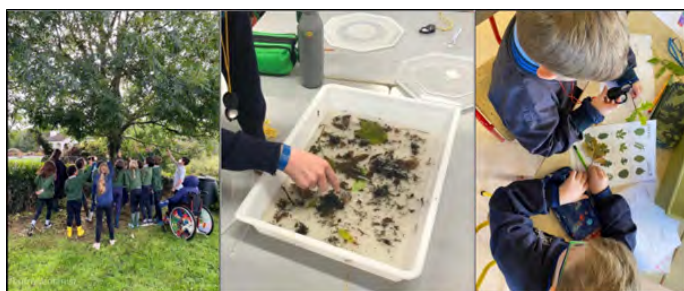
Heritage in Schools specialists Sinead Keane and David McGrath delivered the biodiversity workshops and worked closely with Clare County Council's Biodiversity Officer Barry O'Loughlin. The Clare Schools Biodiversity Programme reached out to 200 students (5 schools – secondary and primary) and was funded by Creative Communities through Clare Libraries, while 413 students (8 primary schools) were funded through the support of the Heritage in Schools Programme Manager with the Heritage Council. The biodiversity initiatives aim to help Green Schools who are currently undertaking the theme of 'biodiversity' to progress their green flag. A total of 13 schools participated in the programmes including:

'Clare Schools Biodiversity Programme' participating schools:

- Ballyea National School
- St. Annes School, Ennis
- Parteen National School
- Spanish Point Secondary School
- St. Flannan's Secondary School Ennis

'Heritage in Schools Scheme' participating schools:

- Convent Primary School, Killaloe
- Kildysart National School
- Boston National School
- Bridgetown National School
- St. Flannan's National School (Inagh)
- Coore National School
- Clooney National School
- Gaeilscoil Mhíchíl Cíosóg (Ennis)



613 students across County Clare participated in Biodiversity Workshops in September and October 2024.

**Hen Harrier Threat Response Plan 2024-2028**

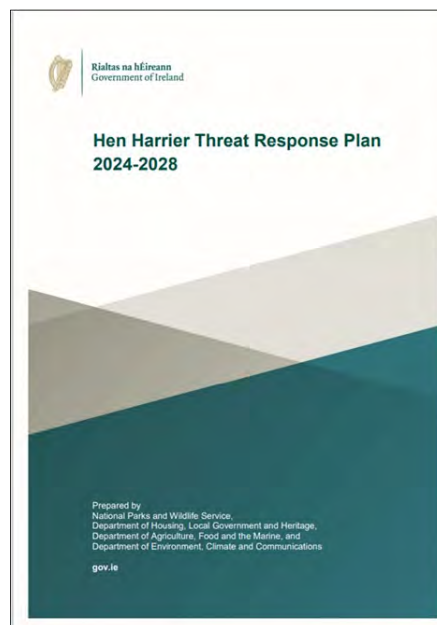
The Hen Harrier Threat Response Plan was launched on the 10th of September by Malcolm Noonan TD, Minister of State for Nature, Heritage and Electoral Reform. The Hen Harrier is a ground-nesting species that typically breeds in open upland bog and heather moorland. The 2022 National Hen Harrier survey identified a 33% decline in the Hen Harrier population since the previous national survey in 2015, between 85 and 106 pairs. The species is listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) and, as such, six SPAs (Special Protection Areas) have been designated for conserving important breeding habitats and populations of Hen Harrier. Clare is an important county for the

species particularly West Clare, the Burren, North-East Clare near the Slieve Aughties and some islands on the Shannon Estuary.

The aim of the Hen Harrier Threat Response Plan is to improve the long-term prospects for the species and to meet the objectives of the Birds Directive by:

- Synthesising the key scientific evidence for the Hen Harrier population decline;
- Outlining the views and concerns presented by the relevant sectors; and
- laying out a coordinated set of targeted actions and measures to cease, avoid, reverse, reduce, eliminate or prevent the identified threats, pressures and hazards”.

The current plan aims to address the threats faced by this iconic raptor through a series of coordinated actions, across sectors including agriculture, forestry and wind energy. Actions will focus on informing future conservation strategies, collaboration and the further development of agri-environmental schemes and incentives, through data collection, monitoring and research. These actions will be taken across all areas important to Hen Harrier, both within and outside Hen Harrier Special Protection Areas.



Hen Harrier Threat Response Plan

**Irish Ramsar Wetlands Committee (IRWC)**

On 24th of October, Clare County Council's Biodiversity Officer gave a presentation in Dublin to members of the Irish Ramsar Wetlands Committee on project updates relating to wetland projects supported and funded by Clare County Council. This included the second county wide wetland field survey in 2024 (currently underway) and previous surveys, the upcoming Clare Wetland Story Map which aims to promote wetlands to local communities and schools across County Clare; and the development of a wetland community guidance document in collaboration with the Community Wetlands Forum and Monaghan County Council's Biodiversity Officer. The presentation also covered how wetland datasets are integrated

into the online Planning Database to protect wetlands in the county when reviewing planning applications. Clare County Council’s Biodiversity Officer Barry O’Loughlin is representing the Biodiversity Officer Network at the Irish Ramsar Wetlands Committee for the next two years. Other organisations in attendance included the Office of Public Work, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Waterford County Council, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Trinity College Dublin, LAWPRO, Irish Peatland Conservation Council, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Coastwatch. The seminar started with a short field trip to inspect the salt marsh habitats of South Dublin Bay.



Clare County Council’s Biodiversity Officer Barry O’Loughlin gave a presentation to members of the Irish Ramsar Wetlands Committee in October.

### East Clare Forest Schools Programme

In October and November 2024, Clare County Council’s Biodiversity Office supported and funded the forest school’s educational initiative ‘Wild Plants can Sing Forest School’ which links local primary schools in East Clare to learn about native woodlands in their local area through biodiversity work-shops. Primary school children from Flagmount, Scarriff and Feakle participated in the 'Wild Plants Can Sing Forest School' initiative led by Heritage in Schools specialist Marina Levitina. The workshop introduces children to learn about ancient oak trees, native plants and where these seeds are sourced from their local area. This is a new initiative funded by Clare County Council and promotes biodiversity education through creative learning.



Local schools in East Clare participated in Forest Schools in October and November 2024 and learned about their local biodiversity and native woodlands.

## DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The table below shows the number of planning applications processed during the month of October (to October 30th), together with the year-to-date figures. Fifty Nine percent of planning applications received in October were received by electronic means.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS	October (to 30/10/24)	Year to date 2024
No. of planning applications received	108	890
No. of Planning Decisions made	82	750
No. of decisions notified by An Bord Pleanála	5	48
No. of pre-planning enquiries received	32	228
No. of Section 5 applications	6	83
No. of Section 97 Exemption Cert applications (in respect of Part V of the Planning & Dev Act 2000)	3	31
Submissions received regarding Compliance	32	225

## PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

### October Statistics (1st October to 28th October 2024 inclusive)

New Complaints Received	14
New Files Opened	6
Files Closed	2
Warning Letters Issued	3
Enforcement Notices Issued	2
Legal Proceedings	0

## LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

- Training:** Throughout October, Local Enterprise Office Clare provided training pro-grammes to over 110 clients. These courses encompassed training in Costing & Pric-ing of products and services, Marketing, the utilisation of Artificial Intelligence for marketing, and Start Your Own Business workshops.

- **Mentoring:** In October, LEO Clare successfully conducted three “One-to-One Mentor-ing Clinics,” accommodating up to 18 businesses. The mentoring sessions covered areas such as Finance and Business Start-Up, Marketing and Sales, and Social Media, Website, and Digital. Furthermore, to date, over 200 mentoring applications have been processed in 2024.

### Ministerial Visit from Emer Higgins

Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail, Emer Higgins visited LEO Clare on 8th October 2024. During the courtesy visit to the LEO in Clare County Council, the minister was briefed on the various economic development initiatives being progressed by the local authority, the challenges faced by local businesses and the opportunities for future economic development in Clare. The minister of state was then given an overview of the range of supports being provided and implemented by LEO Clare in supporting local businesses and entrepreneurs.

Minister Higgins was also introduced to six local businesses, who are supported by LEO Clare, where she engaged in one-to-one discussions gaining an understanding of their business and the challenges they encounter in achieving their ambition to grow. The LEO Clare supported business represented included Atlantic Clinical Packaging, Oir Tonics, This Is What I Do, IFF Plastics, iWater, and Western Herd Brewery.



Minister Emer Higgins with Carmel Kirby, Director of Economic Development, Padraic McElwee, Head of Enterprise, Alan O'Callaghan, Cathaoirleach, along with CCC elected members & local businesses

### National Womens Enterprise Day 2024

Local Enterprise Office Clare hosted this year's National Women's Enterprise Day on behalf of the Mid West Region, with the theme 'Making It Happen' for the attending female entrepreneurs. The event was held at the prestigious five-star Dromoland Castle Hotel on October 17th. Over 150 women from the region participated, engaging in networking and learning from leading industry experts while accessing the extensive supports available from LEOs in Clare, Limerick, & Tipperary. The event was MC'd by Ciana Campbell, a former RTE broadcaster and award-winning journalist. She was joined by keynote speaker Aimee Connolly of Sculpted by Aimee, one of Ireland's most recognizable & beloved beauty entrepreneurs, who

shared her journey from start-up to employing over 70 staff, emphasizing the importance of networking.



All Attendees of the National Women's Enterprise Day in Dromoland Castle Hotel, Co Clare.



Padraic McElwee & Deirdre Keating, LEO Clare, with Aimee Connolly & members of LEO Limerick & LEO Tipperary

### Moving Towards Aerospace Project

Clare County Council and LEO Clare hosted delegates from nine different European countries as part of an INTERREG project designed to explore new opportunities for Aerospace in the Shannon and Mid-West region. The delegation is a part of the European wide “Moving Toward Aerospace” (MAE) project whose objective is to research potential opportunities and identify barriers within the Aerospace Sector in the region. MAE, in which Clare County Council plays a key role, aims to open up potential opportunities in future-oriented manufacturing for SMEs currently operating in traditional industry segments. The project explores policy interventions that may be required to support a transition to a new generation of innovative SMEs in aerospace, develop local aerospace value-chains, and lay the

foundation for future SME growth and high-quality jobs. Clare County Council hosted delegates from Czech Republic; Norway; Netherlands; Spain; Italy; Ukraine; and Romania as part of MAE’s visit to the Mid-West.



Padraic McElwee, Head of Enterprise & Theresa Mulvihill, MAE Co-ordinator with MAE delegates in FMCI, Shannon

Deed of Rectification / Variation signed	0	2	4
Allotment Agreements signed	40	40	39

## DERELICT SITES

The Derelict sites team are currently dealing with 268 properties that are considered derelict. We continue to have very high levels of activity and engagement with owners and their representatives. Further derelict properties are being identified on a weekly basis. Initial engagement with owners or their representatives is key to resolution of the issues of dereliction and to gain an understanding of the various reasons why the properties are in a derelict state. Where derelict properties are sold by the owner, we commence engagement with the new owners of those properties to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities under the Derelict Sites Act, 1990.

We are also seeing a consistent number of planning applications for property refurbishment /extension 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 October and the comparative figures for the full year 2023. While a lower number of notices were issued, the engagement with owners continued apace.

Derelict Sites	October 2024	Year to date 2024	Full Year 2023
No. of new files opened	3	25	58
No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued - Intention to enter site on Derelict Sites Register	9	35	41
No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued - Entry of site onto Derelict Sites Register	2	33	24
No. of Section 11 Notices issued - Measures required to render the site non-derelict	1	2	0
No. of files closed / property removed from Derelict Sites Register	3	22	15

## PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

### Property Transactions and Conveyancing

The Table below shows the number of property transactions completed by Property Management Unit up to 22nd October and the activity to date in 2024 and the corresponding figures for 2023.

While the property market in the County continues to be quite active, there is a shortage of supply, particularly in the residential sector. We continue 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	October 2024	Year to date 2024	Full year 2023
Lease / Sub Lease of Property / Building	0	6	7
Licence to use property / building	0	13	7
Grazing Agreement for Lands	2	22	17
Deed of Transfer signed	0	8	15
Contract for Sale / acquisition signed		0	1
Deed of Right of Way / Wayleave signed	1	6	2

No. of Notices served to Compulsorily Purchase derelict sites (CPO) (see note below)	0	7	10
No of Vesting Orders signed	2	5	5

### Compulsory Acquisition of Derelict Sites (CPO)

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

Year	No of CPOs commenced	Current Status
<b>2022</b>	<b>6</b>	3 - CPOs completed and property transferred to Housing for refurbishment works. Two of these are now completed and Part VIII permission has been got for the other property.
		1 - CPO completed, title obtained and sale closed in August 2024- New owner has commenced works
		2 - works have commenced and CPO parked for now
<b>2023</b>	<b>10</b>	8 - At Vesting Stage and lodged in PRA
		1 - CPO completed and property was sold at auction in October 2024, subject to approval of elected members
		1 - Objection received and is under appeal. Further work is needed on these properties
<b>2024</b>	<b>7</b>	3 - At Vesting Stage and lodged in PRA
		2 CPO process commenced in August 2024 and now at Vesting Stage
		1 CPO commenced and has been appealed to An Bord Pleanála
		1 - Objection received and An Bord Pleanála has not confirmed the CPO order – File is under review

In addition, the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund will provide funding for CPO's on a rolling basis in the town of Ennis with the objective being that these properties would then be sold on the open market. A particular emphasis will be on properties that have potential for residential use. One such CPO is with the PRA for registration and works have recently been completed in order to safeguard the property in the interim. A second CPO commenced in August 2024 and is now at vesting stage. A particular focus on properties in the town of Ennis has resulted in a number of properties coming to market.

### Derelict Site Levy

Determination of valuations on the derelict sites which are on the Derelict Sites Register commenced in 2023 and notices have been issued to over 15 property owners to date. Three owners have appealed the valuation to the Valuation Tribunal and while decisions are awaited on two appeals, one appeal by an owner has recently been 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 2024 and it is intended that all properties on the Derelict sites Register will be valued for the purposes of billing the levy. Clare County Council will be billing the levy as per the budget adopted for 2024. This levy will go towards the cost of billing and collection of the levy and resourcing of derelict sites function.

The Table below shows the levels of activity on the Derelict sites levy as of 22nd October 2024

Derelict Sites Levy	October 2024	Year to date 2024	Full Year 2023
No. of properties on which the levy has been billed	0	10	0
Amount billed in respect of Derelict sites Levy	0	€136,360	0
Number of properties on which valuations have been requested	5	21	6
Number of properties on which notices of Valuation have been issued to owners	4	11	6

### Survey of Vacant and Derelict Properties

The Team completed the first round of surveys of vacant and derelict properties in towns and villages around the County in 2023 and early 2024. Based on the Geo-directory data on vacancy and dereliction, the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government asked the Council to validate the data that they hold. A total of 2,100 individual surveys have been completed (with the data being uploaded digitally). Only about 60% of these were found to be vacant or derelict. The next stages are the assessment of the priority areas for further

action, work on getting information on ownership and making contact with owners. The data collected will be the basis for future policy direction and will guide the work programme of

the Derelict Sites Team and the Vacant Homes Team. The data collected will also support the work being done by Town Teams under Town Centre First policy.

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

The level of approvals of the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant by Clare County Council is at €18.3 million as at 22nd October 2024 (304 grant applications approved), 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.

A very successful walk-in advice clinic was held in Áras Contae an Chláir on 25th September with over 30 property owners coming in to meet the Vacant Homes Team for advice regarding making their applications, information required etc. Further walk in clinics will be held on the dates below.

**Vacant Property Grant Walk-in Clinics**

Walk-in-Clinics in relation to the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant will be held throughout Clare in October and November 2024.

- **Miltown Malbay Community Centre (V95 W93R) - Wednesday 23rd October - 10am – 5pm**
- **Killaloe Municipal District office (V94 NY33) - Wednesday 6th November - 10am – 5pm**
- **Bridge Active Building, Sixmilebridge (V95 X886) - Wednesday 20th November - 10am – 5pm**
- **Áras Contae an Chláir (V95 DXP2) - Available on Mondays by appointment**

For further information contact the Vacant Homes team on 065-6846221 or email [vacanthomes@clarecoco.ie](mailto:vacanthomes@clarecoco.ie)

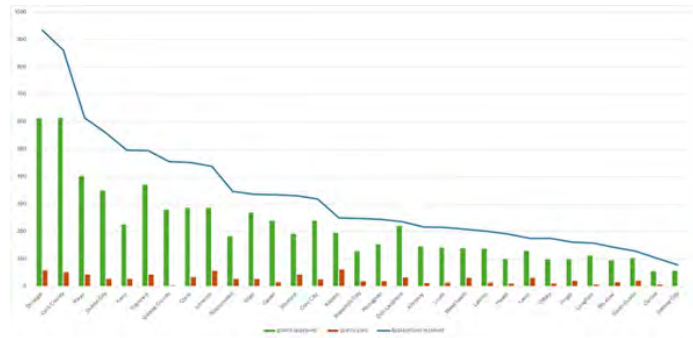


The breakdown of Grant approvals by Municipal District is shown in the Table below.

Amount approved by Local Electoral Area (including those with grant funding paid out)			
Local Electoral Area	No of applications approved	Total amount approved (€)	% of total number of Grants Approved
Kilrush LEA	110	€6.8 million	37%
Ennistymon LEA	60	€3.65 million	20%
Ennis LEA	43	€2.45 million	13%
Killaloe LEA	56	€3.35 million	18%
Shannon LEA	35	€2.1 million	11%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>€18.3 million</b>	<b>100%</b>

We continue to have high levels of enquiries and applications for the Croí Cónaithe Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, with 457 applications received since 2022 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 four weeks.

To date, we have processed forty payments of the grant amounting to €2.1 million and there are a number of claims for payments on hands. The level of claims is increasing and reflects completion of works on properties for which the grant was approved in 2022 and 2023.



### Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Loan.

A new loan has been launched by Government called the Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Loan. It is a government-backed mortgage and loan that helps people to buy and renovate a derelict or uninhabitable home. The loan is for first-time buyers, and ‘fresh start applicants’, who have been unable to get funding from commercial lenders. It is an extension of the Local Authority Home Loan. The applicant must qualify for the Vacant Property Re-furbishment Grant to get this loan. The Housing Department will administer this loan and work closely with the Vacant Homes Team.

### Other Points of Information

1. The breakdown of applications between urban and rural areas has remained consistent - 56% of applications are for rural areas of the county and 44% for properties in towns and villages.
2. To date, 72% of applications are for properties to be used as principal private residence (241 properties) and the balance of 28% are for rent. This has remained fairly consistent in recent months.



3. To date 20% of applications have been either withdrawn or refused. This can arise if the purchase of a property falls through, if the property has not been vacant for the two year period or where proof of eligibility criteria is not possible. We assist applicants on all elements of the application process and are receiving positive feedback in this regard.
4. A report has recently been produced by Dublin City Council and the Dublin Simon Community entitled "Opportunities and Challenges of vacant above the shop units for residential use in Ireland". It is intended that we will circulate this report to Chambers of Commerce and property owners in towns around the County.
5. The Grant will boost the supply of rental properties and properties for permanent residence and will deliver on a key priority of 'Housing for All' National Policy and the

Vacant Homes Action Plan, the key objective of which is to reduce vacancy and dereliction in our cities, towns, villages and rural countryside and provide more housing options in the process.

6. Full details of the scheme and eligibility criteria are published on the Council's website. The contact email address for further information and guidance on the grants scheme is [vacanthomes@clarecoco.ie](mailto:vacanthomes@clarecoco.ie).

gov.ie - Vacant homes

## ENNIS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

October was again a busy month for the Ennis MD Team with a lot of varied works and projects being progressed across the Municipal District. Some of the milestones achieved include the following:

### Low Cost Safety Projects

We are in the final stages of completing two low-cost Safety projects in Ennis.

The first project - Millbank Road, Roslevan involved the following works.

- Installation of 2 no raised table uncontrolled pedestrian crossings.
- Installation of 1 no stand-alone speed ramp.
- Junction tightening to 2 no housing estate exits.
- 80m of new footpath
- New road markings

The second project - line marking traffic calming works to the Gaurus Road involved the following:

- New raised **SLOW** markings to the road
- The installation of rumble strips
- The installation of edge markings to delineate the road edges.



### Co - Creating Works 2024

The co-creating projects have continued to progress throughout Ennis during October. Our Crews have the majority of the civils work completed on the projects in the Circular Road, Hermitage area with only the installation of the tarmac raised table pedestrian crossings to be completed. Works have also commenced in the College Road/Sandfield park area with further projects at Greendale and Station Road to be completed in November.





**Doora Village - Traffic Calming and Footpath**

The completion of Traffic Calming and Footpath works to Doora village in the vicinity of the Church progressed closer to construction during the month of October. The tendering process for the works is completed and a Contractor has been appointed. It is envisaged these works will start in early November and it is expected that they will be completed for the Christmas holiday period.



**Road Works Programme**

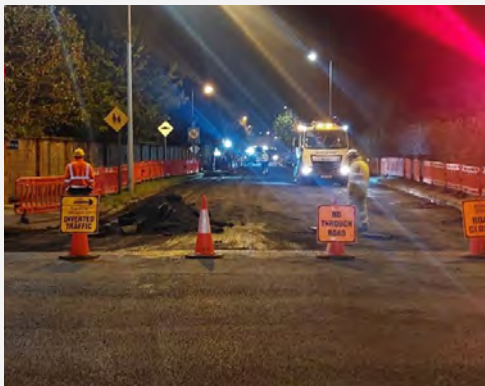
October has been a very busy month for road resurfacing works in the urban areas of Ennis Town. Our specialist contractors Breedon Surfacing along with Clare County Council Road crews have completed a total of 22,500m<sup>2</sup> to the value of €1.55 million of fully resurfaced roads. For those interested in the technical specification, the makeup of the road comprises of a 60mm asphalt concrete base course and 40mm SMA wearing course.

To alleviate disruption caused by these works to the public and the business community of Ennis, the majority of works were completed by night, between the hours of 8pm to 6am. This programming of the works proved to be a success as all the works were completed with little or no negative impact on the day-to-day operation of Ennis Town.

The roads that were resurfaced during October are as follows.

- Millbank-Fahy Hall- Roslevan
- Cusack Road
- Gort Road
- Bóthar na Trócaire/Friars Walk
- Bindon Street/Bank Place
- Circular Road
- Kilnamona -Section of N85





**Ballyallia Enhancement Works**

In consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), winter maintenance works have been completed to the southern loop walk to Ballyallia Amenity Park. Overgrowth has been cut back to both the path and the edges with the seating area cleared.

See attached photos for the Before and After conditions.



**Ennis Town Bus Service**

Ennis MD continue to work with the NTA (National Transport Authority) in progressing the plans for the Ennis Town Bus Service. Members and indeed the Clare public, will have been delighted to see Ennis Town Bus Service listed for approval in the recent Budget announcement. The NTA Town Bus Team have commenced work on the detailed design of the associated Bus Stops and Ennis MD Staff are assisting in this process.

**Ennis Local Transport Plan (ABTA)**

Ennis MD staff continue to work on the Local Transport Plan in conjunction with Systra, our Technical Advisors for the project. We have only last week received a copy of the near to final Draft Plan for internal cross directorate review following which, we will revert to Systra with our comments. In parallel, works are continuing on the various Environmental Assessments required, following which we will be in a position to brief and consult with the Ennis MD Councillors prior to the formal Public Consultation Stage.

**Other Key Strategic works**

In addition to the aforementioned, Ennis MD staff continue to work on a cross directorate basis with our colleagues and the appropriate Government Departments in advancing the Ennis Public Realm works, the LIHAF Access Road project, the Tulla Road and Clare Road Active Travel Projects. We also work closely with our DAC colleagues in developing the ambitious plans outlined in the *Ennis 2040 Economic & Spatial Strategy*.

The 4 main proposals currently being progressed under the Strategy are as follows:

**Francis Street S179A Affordable Housing Proposal**

Enabling works completed on the site.

**Abbey Street (Riverside proposal)**

The proposed design presented at the public consultations is being reviewed by the Design Team at present following feedback received.

**Harvey's Quay**

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

**Post Office Field Masterplan**

The proposed design presented at the public consultations is being reviewed by the Design Team following feedback received.

# PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

## TRANSPORTATION


### Roadworks Programme and Operations

The 2024 Schedule of Municipal District Works (Annual Roadworks Programme) is now well advanced in all 4 Municipal Districts.

### Strategic Transportation

<b>Active Travel</b>	<p>The following is a brief overview of the activities within the Active Travel office:</p> <p><b>Tulla Road Cycle Scheme:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The detailed design for the final phase of the Tulla Rd Scheme is being finalised by the consultant.</li></ul> <p><b>Ennis LTP:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clare County Council are awaiting the Preliminary / Preferred Option report from Systra Consultant Engineers in the coming weeks.</li></ul> <p><b>Limerick Road (incl. St. Flannans Drive) Cycle scheme:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Draft Preliminary Design Report has been received, with the final report expected following completion of Environmental Screening and Road Safety Audit. The scheme will then move to public consultation and through the relevant statutory process.</li></ul> <p><b>Ardnacrusha to Athlunkard Bridge:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A number of tenders were received for this scheme with the contract to be awarded in the coming days. The scope of the works involves route option selection and preliminary design phases.</li></ul> <p><b>Connecting &amp; Co-creating Ennis:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Works are progressing with these junction improvements throughout Ennis. Currently works are ongoing in Cloughleigh Rd /Circular Rd.</li></ul> <p><b>‘Safe Routes To School’ program:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Holy Family National School:</b> Phase 1 of this scheme has been substantially completed with only minor elements outstanding such as anti-skid surfacing, additional road markings, school banners and planting of flower boxes. The scheme was completed by Michael Cotter Contractors.</li><li>• <b>Ennis National School</b> A Section 38 for the proposed scheme has been approved by the MD. Clare County Council are now tendering for the construction works of the scheme.</li></ul>
<b>Public Lighting</b>	<p>Clare County Council signed the contract for the Maintenance of Public Lighting in Clare with Public Lighting Contractor, Enerveo.</p> <p>The contractor commenced maintenance works on the 1st October and have been working since to reduce the outage no’s present on the network. Due to the absence of a maintenance contractor for our network from July to October, there is a back log that is currently being addressed which may lead to increased repair times for a period.</p> <p>The public lighting section is working with our maintenance contractor, Electric Skyline, and ESB Networks in an effort to minimize repair times.</p> <p>For the benefit of Councillors, public lighting faults can be reported via Local Authority Identification (<a href="https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/roads-and-transport/road-maintenance-issues/report-a-broken-streetlight">https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/roads-and-transport/road-maintenance-issues/report-a-broken-streetlight</a>).</p> <p>The PLEEP (Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project) continues with survey works at present in Clare, predominantly in the Ennis and West Clare MD’s. Physical replacement works commence in Shannon MD on the 29th October and shall extend into the other MD’s in late 2024 and early 2025.</p>

## Road Design Office

Project	Progress Update
<p><b>Bridge Rehabilitation Programme</b></p>	<p>Rehabilitation work has been completed on 14 Bridges across the Municipal Districts Contractors are onsite at 2 bridges 1 in East Clare and 1 in West Clare. There are a further 3 bridges to commence in the coming weeks.</p> 
<p><b>Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads</b></p>	<p><b>Low Cost Safety Schemes in 2024:</b>            Designs have been completed for the Low Cost Safety Schemes and have been handed over to the MDs for delivery.</p> <p><b>Specific Improvement Grant Ogonolloe €100k:</b>            This scheme has been handed over to the MD for construction. Works include carriageway narrowing, build outs and a pedestrian crossing. Construction works are well underway by direct labour. Works will include the provision of bus stop facilities.</p>
<p><b>Default speed Limits &amp; Proposed Speed Limits</b></p>	<p>On the 8th October a briefing was given to the members on the new 60kph default speed limit on local rural roads &amp; 21 proposed special speed limits which includes a number of periodic 50kph Speed Limits at schools.</p> <p>Signs and poles for the new 60kph default speed limit were delivered mid October and work will commence to erect these new default speed limit signs so they will be in place for the commencement date at the end of November. This date is to be confirmed by the Minister.</p>

## TII Safety Improvement

<p><b>HD17</b></p>	<p><b>N85 Lahinch Road Ennis Pedestrian Crossing</b>            A Section 38 will be advertised with the Shanaway Junction mini roundabout when TII approve the junction improvements.</p> <p><b>N85 Lahinch Road Shanaway Junction</b>            The Preliminary Design Report has been uploaded to the TII departures portal for approval.</p> <p><b>N85 Clareabbey Roundabout</b>            Approval of feasibility and options report is awaited from TII.</p> <p><b>Minster Place, Kilkee</b>            A Preliminary Design Report including a landscape design, and updated costings has been uploaded to the TII departures portal for approval.</p> <p><b>N67 /L2028 Junction Doonbeg</b>            Proposed works include junction tightening, provision of a raised pedestrian crossing and carriageway narrowing. A Feasibility &amp; Options Report has been sent to TII for review.</p> <p><b>Fence Retrofit</b>            A contractor has been appointed with works due to commence on the N68 in November.</p> <p><b>Periodic Special Speed Limits</b>            Written consent has been received from TII for the proposed periodic special speed limits on the N68 Caherea National School, N67 New Quay National School and N67 Rinneen National School. These proposed byelaws will be put before the Members for adoption at the November meeting.</p>
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## Health and Safety

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

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

The H&S Team have commenced Internal H&S Audits during September/October 2024 for those Departments going forward for ISO 45001 Accreditation.

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

## CAPITAL DELIVERY / PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE

<p><b>Doolin Pier Visitor Services Building</b></p>	<p>Following the conclusion of a review of the current Visitor Services Building brief by a Cross Directorate team, the council are now engaging with Local Elected members to discuss the next project steps. In parallel, the MD are progressing construction of footpaths between Fisher Street and Doolin Pier, the programme of works which is due for completion in coming months. This will ensure that pedestrian connectivity is in place along this well-trafficked route in time for the 2025 tourist season.</p>
<p><b>Ennis Public Realm Regeneration (Project B)</b></p>	<p>The benefits of this worthwhile investment have become evident in recent weeks with the removal of temporary construction fencing and the opening-up of street sections for public use. As well as the establishment of shared surface pavements, street features including raised limestone planters and raingardens have been unveiled for the first time. We look forward to bringing colour and vibrancy to these planters in coming months to complement the high quality granite and limestone streetscapes, and to continued implementation of upgrades at O’Connell Square, Bank Place and elsewhere in the town centre. An intensive works programme continues on O’Connell Street with civils and paving crews deployed throughout at a number of site locations. The focus is to progress Phases 2A and 5 on O’Connell Street and ensure that the street section between the Old Ground Hotel and O’Connell Square is completed in advance of the Christmas season. To this end, multiple crews have been deployed for the purpose of laying concrete protection slab sections, rerouting of services, and completion of paving. As well as working during normal business hours, certain works is being completed on evening shifts to achieve earliest completion for these areas. Additionally, works have commenced at upper O’Connell Street / Carmody street junction to complete the public realm project in this area in tandem with a traffic controls upgrade in this area. It must be noted that the foul sewer works on O’Connell Street and High Street were completed in May. This welcome investment by Uisce Eireann (Irish Water) ensures that that legacy infrastructure is upgraded and future-proofs the sewer system and associated service delivery.</p> <p>Road Closures are now in place for O’Connell Street, and High Street, and there will be a need for limited further road closures in the town centre in 2025 to facilitate certain aspects of the works. The works requirement within the contract obliges Shareridge to have a Public Liaison Officer (PLO) as part of their Team who is based in their Project Office in Ennis Town Centre. The PLO is engaging extensively with affected parties as the works progress in advance of commencement of every work phase. The public and traders are encouraged to take every opportunity to meet with the project team to ensure that their needs are communicated, and disruption is minimised wherever possible. The contractor and design team are also convening fortnightly drop-in meetings, as well as issuing weekly progress update bulletins. Affected/interested parties are invited to email <a href="mailto:ennispublicrealm@shareridge.ie">ennispublicrealm@shareridge.ie</a> if they wish to be added to mailing list. It is unavoidable that there will be disruption with a major civil and infrastructural works of this nature, but every effort is being made to keep this to a minimum while allowing the necessary access to allow timely completion. It is expected that the longer-term advantages in terms of user amenity and accessibility will far outweigh the shorter-term inconvenience. The cooperation and understanding of all stakeholders in this regard is greatly appreciated.</p>

**Ennistymon Inner Relief Road and Bridge Crossing (Blake's Corner)**

The Judicial Review process is ongoing.

**Killaloe Bridge, Bypass & R494 Upgrade**

Progress has been steady over the past month. Major Milestones achieved in recent weeks include: Pedestrian guard rails installed on main bridge, drainage on main bridge installed and two number large culverts (adjacent to Technopath and Larkins) installed on R494.



**Killaloe Bypass Section**

Kincora: Accom. Wks. to CPO 101 (Ballyvalley House) well advanced. Drainage inspections (CCTV) and remedials in progress (in advance of laying pavement wearing course).



Main Cut to Hill Road: Finishing works to footpath and cycle track nearing completion. Public Lights installed. Drainage inspections and remedials complete.



Hill Road to Creeveroe Road: Pavement wearing course laid. Drainage inspections (CCTV) and remedials complete.



Creeveroe Road to Shantraud: Drainage inspections (CCTV) and remedials complete. Access roads to ponds tarred and chipped. Pavement Wearing Course laid.



Shantraud Roundabout: Wearing course laid to North, South and West arms.



**Shannon Bridge Crossing Link**

Shantraud to Clarisford Junction: Paving to binder course laid stopped just short of junction.



Clarisford to West Embankment: Drainage almost complete. Construction of walls to embankment ongoing. Embankment prepped for kerbs.



**Shannon Bridge**

Pedestrian guard rails to viewing galleries in progress. Painting and concrete repair snagging in progress.



**R494 Upgrade**

Section 7 (South of Rail Bridge): Tarmac to private residences complete. Accom. Wks nearing completion.



Section 7 (North of Rail Bridge): Splitter island constructed. Accom. Wks to Hayes Farm nearing completion. Tarmac to domestic access, pond access and field access complete.





Section 6: Tarmac to Ponds Access in progress.



Section 5 (Chainage 1350-1750): Prep work for culvert installation in progress. Box-cut to northern lane in progress.



Section 4 (Chainage 950-1350): Culvert installed. Waterproofing to culvert in progress.



Section 3 (Chainage 650-950): Culvert installed. Waterproofing to culvert in progress.



Sections 2: Accom. Works in progress.



Section 1 Roolagh Roundabout: Testing and Commissioning Works to Pumping Station in progress. Accommodation Works to local properties at an advanced stage. Kerbing to bridge commenced. Drainage and service installation on northern lane complete. Box-cut to northern lane complete. Kerbing to northern lane due to commence.



**Kilmastulla Bridge**  
Snagging near completion.



**Rail Bridge**  
Snagging near completion.



**RW03 (Shannonside Business Park):** Access Ramp in progress.



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

**Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme**

Planning application lodged with An Bord Pleanála on 2nd of October 2024. Liaison with property owners is ongoing for the necessary temporary and permanent land acquisitions required as part of the scheme.

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

The tender documents for the scheme have now been finalised by the Engineering Consultants for the project. Following final due diligence review it is envisaged that the tender will be published in the coming weeks.

Currently over 70% of the land parcels required for the road have been acquired/agreed terms including the parcel of lands where the first approx.

There is positive engagement with all remaining landowners, and to that regard we are hopeful of reaching terms by agreement in the coming weeks.

Discussions continue with the Department of Housing / LIHAF Management Committee. Following receipt of a revised Grant Agreement it will enable us to move forward with the Infrastructure & Housing delivery in 2025.

## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

<p><b>N19 Shannon Airport Access Road</b></p>	<p>As part of Phase 3 - Design &amp; Environmental Evaluation, the project team are publishing an Update for the project. This Update is available to view on the project website <a href="http://www.shannonaccess.ie">www.shannonaccess.ie</a> from 25th October 2024 at 3pm following a project briefing to Shannon MD.</p> <p>Since the conclusion of the July 2024 Design Update, the design team have further progressed the design and environmental evaluation of the Preferred Option. The Preferred Option has now been finalised following extensive stakeholder engagement and detailed consideration of environmental surveys, transport surveys and ground investigations.</p> <p>The design team are also working towards the finalisation of the Statutory Documentation required as part of the proposed planning application for submission to An Bord Pleanála.</p> <p>FTC &amp; Co are addressing and closing out TII comments in respect to the EIAR (Environmental Impact Assessment Report) and are also engaging with the various project stakeholders such as TII Project Services departments, The Shannon Airport Group, Shannon Commercial Properties, Future Mobility Campus Ireland, etc.</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 <a href="http://www.shannonaccess.ie">www.shannonaccess.ie</a></p>
<p><b>Quin Remedial Flood Scheme</b></p>	<p>The project to construct a flood mitigation scheme at Quin to protect three existing dwelling houses is now complete and operational. The scheme was carried out by Clare County Council in association with the Office of Public Works. It was fully funded by the OPW.</p>
<p><b>Remediation of sites containing ACM</b></p>	<p>The project team will be submitting a Planning Application in coming months in respect of the remediation of the subject sites, with a view to approval in 2025. This will be followed by tender process and implementation on a phased basis. The sites continue to be routinely monitored and maintained as required by Council staff in accordance with approach following as agreed with the EPA.</p>
<p><b>Shannon Town &amp; Environs Flood Relief Scheme</b></p>	<p>The 2024 wintering bird surveys for the scheme are ongoing.</p> <p>The updated Buildability Report has been submitted by the consultant for the steering group's review.</p> <p>An updated Options Report is also due to be issued this period.</p> <p>The kick-off meeting for the additional topographical surveys was carried out and some surveys have commenced.</p> <p>Coordination with the N19 project team is ongoing.</p>
<p><b>West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 1: Kilrush to Kilkee)</b></p>	<p>The Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) review of Phase 2 documentation is ongoing. Following satisfactory completion of the review, the project will progress to Phase 3 (Design and Environmental). In the interim, Clare County Council will continue to liaise with affected landowners in order to refine the route alignment. The Project Agronomist and Project Liaison Officers, will be in contact with landowners / farmers to arrange meetings on site to assess the potential impacts of the proposed development in line with the 'The Code of Best Practice for National and Regional Greenways 2021'. Following on from these site visits, the Design team will incorporate any accommodation works and design changes that may be necessary.</p>
<p><b>West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 2: Ennis to Ennistymon)</b></p>	<p>Works continue on preparations for the third non-statutory public consultation on the emerging preferred route corridor.</p>
<p><b>West Clare Railway Greenway (Sections 3 &amp; 4: Ennistymon to Miltown Malbay to Moyasta)</b></p>	<p>The Design team is developing potential route options to allow potential route corridors to be put on public display in the second non-statutory public consultation.</p>
<p><b>Other Greenway Proposals</b></p>	<p>No update this month.</p>

General Design Office

<b>Vandeleur Gardens Yard Wall and Storage Container</b>	Part 8 planning application being prepared and will be submitted in November 2024. Environmental Consultants procured and AA and EIA screening reports in progress - Fire Cert and DAC applications in progress to be submitted Nov 2024.
<b>Town and Village Renewal Scheme</b>	Parteen - Traffic light system in operation and footpath open to the public. Awaiting public lighting connection by ESB Networks.
<b>Wood River Walk, Kilrush</b>	Preliminary design investigations ongoing.
<b>Park &amp; Ride Facilities for Cliffs of Moher</b>	Assisting in the selection and assessment of locations for park and ride facilities for the Cliffs of Moher.

FIRE & BUILDING CONTROL SECTION

Training Courses

Clare County Fire & Rescue Service personnel underwent a number of training courses during October, including Emergency Services Driving Standard (ESDS) Training; Compartment Fire Behaviour Training in Hacketstown and Line Rescue Training at Kilrush Fire Station.



*Pictured: Back row L-R: FF Sean Wood, Killaloe; FF Michael Doberierzynski, Ennis; FF Paddy Reynolds, Ennistymon; FF Nicklas Witmann, Ennistymon; FF Declan Byrnes, Killaloe; FF Kallum McGreene, Kilkee; FF Tommy Fanning, Ennis. Front row L-R: FF Kevin Walsh, Shannon; SO Eddie Coleman, Hacketstown; ACFO Colum Frawley, Clare; A/SACFO Cormac Falvey, Clare; SO JP McGrath, Ennis; SO Martin Carroll, Newbridge; FF Susan McNamara, Ennis*

**Health & Wellbeing Age Expo**

Clare County Fire & Rescue Service attended Clare County Council’s Health & Wellbeing Age Expo on Thursday 3rd October at Treacy’s West County Hotel. This formed part of multiple events that the Fire Service engaged in to promote community and home fire safety during National Fire Safety Week.



**National Fire Safety Week**

National Fire Safety Week took place from the 30th September to 6th October 2024. This year’s theme was “We didn’t start the Fire - but what did?”. An interview with Kieran Greene, Assistant Chief Fire Officer was aired on Clare FM’s Morning Focus show. The interview highlighted the on-going program of “Home Fire Safety Checks” where firefighters go out to the homes of older people and those living alone to give fire safety advice and to fit smoke detectors where required. This year Clare County Fire & Rescue Service have been working with community groups and other public bodies in an effort to reach vulnerable groups within the county. These include the County Library Service, Age Friendly Ireland and Limerick Clare Educational Training Board. Open days were held at all 7 Fire Stations during Fire Safety Week giving members of the public the opportunity to engage with their local crew and ask questions in relation to fire safety.



**Storm Ashley**

Storm Ashley hit County Clare on Sunday 20th October 2024. Met Éireann issued an Orange Level warning from 10:00 to 20:00 hrs on Sunday 20th October for County Clare. An orange warning is the second highest level of warning with windspeeds between 65 and 80km/hr expected. Clare Council Severe Weather Assessment Team attended National co-ordination meetings hosted by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) in advance of the storm. All seven Brigades of Clare County Fire and Rescue Service responded to a total of 50 emergency calls related to the storm. These calls related to removing trees which were blocking roads or where ESB or telephone wires had fallen and in dangerous locations. There were no injuries or significant structural damage caused by the storm.



Fire & Building Control Section Main Activities	Sept 2024	Oct 2024 (Up to 22.10.24)	Year to Date 2024
Number of Emergency Calls Attended	92	100	984
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Received	12	5	90
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Granted	6	4	76
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Invalidated	0	0	4
Number of Disability Access Certificates Received	9	4	48
Number of Disability Access Certificates Granted	2	2	41
Number of Commencement Notices Received	38	21	411
Number of Dangerous Structures/Places Complaints	0	0	17

(Note: In the Oct Monthly Report, the Sept figures related to 1st-23rd Sept due to timing of report)

## CLARE CIVIL DEFENCE

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### Operational Duties:

- Civil Defence provided medical cover at a number of events in October including TUS Senior Club Hurling Quarter and Semi Finals (Cusack Park); TUS Senior Club Football Quarter and Semi Finals (Cusack Park); Charity Cycle (Quin - Athenry); Halloween Kids Trail (Lees Road); Senior Ladies Club County Final (Tulla GAA); Davy Clinic (Tulla GAA) and Winterage Cattle Drive Walk (Burren).
- Clare Civil Defence members were tasked by An Garda Síochána to assist with a missing person search in the Ennis area. Search teams carried out a number of searches at different locations around Ennis. The search was later stood down when the person was located safe and well by An Garda Síochána.



### Members Training & Professional Development

- All training has resumed after the summer break with on average 50 volunteers attending training every week.
- 16 new recruits have completed their Induction Course, Manual Handling and are currently receiving training on communications.
- Year 2 students are currently participating in AFS Training (Auxiliary Fire Service) learning about low pressure pumping systems.
- 10 volunteers are undergoing Instruction Training in preparation for future Instructor Courses.



### Exercise Mike Whiskey

Preparations are well underway for the Regional Exercise (Exercise Mike Whiskey) with teams from Limerick and Galway expected to travel to Clare to participate.

### Health & Safety

Final preparations are underway for the ISO 45001 accreditation audit as volunteers assist with actions highlighted from the internal review and inspections carried out by the Health & Safety Department of Clare County Council. An internal Health & Safety Team within Clare Civil Defence is in place and will assist the Civil Defence Officer in reviewing the Risk Assessment and SOGs.

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## ENVIRONMENT

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### Environmental Awareness

#### An Taisce Green Schools Programme

This month our Environmental Awareness Officer (EAO) provided in person An Taisce Green School program support to three secondary schools.

Our EAO presented on Green Waste and Food Waste Management to the Leaving Certificate Applied students and Transition Year St Joseph's Secondary School Tulla.

There was also a visit to Ennistymon Community School where our EAO met with the Green Schools Co-Ordinator and provided

practical tips and advice on the Litter and Waste management. Finally, our EAO participated in the raising of the Green Flag ceremony at St John Bosco Community College. St John. This ceremony was attended by the Green Schools Committee, Green School Co-Ordinator, School principal as well as School Board of Management member Councillor Mary Howard.

#### Community support

Our EAO delivered a presentation and recycling workshop to the Shannon Active Retirement Association. The workshop was well received by approximately 70 people in attendance, and

included topics such as littering, illegal dumping, our scientific services, the importance of clean air as well as waste prevention and management.

### Halloween awareness campaign

In the lead up to Halloween a comprehensive media campaign took place highlighting that the burning of household waste in bonfires and other waste burners is illegal. The health and environmental effects were also highlighted. The campaigns included a media release and newspaper adverts on The Clare Echo and The Clare Champion. Clare County Council and Greener Clare social media channels were also used to promote these messages. Maria Carey, Executive engineer participated in a Clare FM morning focus interview with Keran Green, Assistant Chief Fire Officer.

Our Waste Enforcement Team also collaborated with Fire Services and An Garda Síochána and delivered Halloween Safety Talks to Scoil Chríost Rí, Ennis and Ennis Community College.

### Gardening

Throughout October, the Gardening Team continued with scheduled seasonal maintenance work, such as pruning and hedge-cutting at public spaces and corporate buildings.

The team engaged with both Ennis and Shannon Municipal Districts to deliver planting at several recently redeveloped public spaces. These works will be finalised in the coming weeks, and the benefit of these planting schemes will be on show for years to come.

In addition, the Team engaged with West Clare MD and Kilrush Tidy Towns to review current planting practices in Kilrush Town, and to offer advice and support on ways to further enhance the continued good work provided by the Tidy Town's group.

Back in the Gardening Nursery, spring bedding plants for 2025 have been planted and will require ongoing protection and maintenance through the winter period to ensure a healthy stock of plants for early season planting in public spaces and hanging baskets.

### Water Enforcement and Laboratory Monitoring Scientific Services

The table below summarises the work of the scientific teams to date in 2024:

Water Monitoring & Enforcement Scientific Team	October 2024	Total to date 2024
Bathing Water Monitoring	Monitoring season finished for 2024	182
Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant Inspections (NIP Plan)	25	70
Public queries processed regarding DWWTS grants	2	31

Monitoring Inspections of Section 4 licenced premises	5	71
Planning applications (Agriculture)	3	39
Planning applications (Domestic)	128 * incl all apps and Fls	348
Planning applications (Large Developments)	2	27
Planning applications (Forestry)	5	66
Pollution complaints received	7	113
Private Commercial Drinking Water Supplies	38	61
Private/Public Group Water Scheme supplies	72	193
Rivers	10	193
Farm Inspections (NAIP) (Routine Planned & Unplanned)	13	76

### Waste Enforcement

#### Air Pollution Act (1987) (Solid Fuels) Regulations 2022

A contractor was appointed to compile a Solid Fuel Register for Co. Clare. The initial meeting took place in October. Retailer compliance checks and household surveys form part of this project. The report will be completed by October 31st.

#### Mattress Amnesty Days

The second Mattress Amnesty Day was held in Shannon on October 5th to service the southeast of the county. 394 mattresses were taken in on the day, bring the combined total for both the Inagh and Shannon amnesty days to 1254 mattresses. All mattresses collected on the day will be recycled.

#### Southern Region Multi-Agency Forum

The Q4 meeting of the Southern Region Multi-Agency Forum took place in the offices of Tipperary County Council on October 9th. In attendance were members of An Garda Síochána, WERLA, Department of Social Protection, NPWS and Kerry, Tipperary, Clare and Cork local authorities. AGS gave a presentation around interviewing and taking statements from witnesses and suspects.

A review of Q4 Activities took place, including a review of the Multi-Agency Checkpoints carried out on the 11th September at two Co. Clare locations. Planning for Q1, 2025 Activities also occurred. These activities will include further Multi-Agency Checkpoints in Q1, 2025.

#### Deposit Return Scheme

Inspections to monitor compliance with the Deposit Return Scheme continued throughout October.

#### Inspections of Permitted and Unpermitted Sites

Inspections of 5 permitted and 2 unauthorised facilities were carried out by the Waste Enforcement team in October. Follow-up enforcement action is ongoing in the case of the unpermitted sites. The permitted sites were inspected to monitor compliance with their permit conditions, to achieve positive

## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

environmental outcomes for the receiving environments. 4 warning letters, and 3 Section 14 Notices were issued because of these inspections.

Annual Return Validations and Inspections of WFP/COR Sites Validations of 2023 Annual Returns was ongoing throughout October. Several site visits were carried out to verify data submitted. Desktop validations of data were also completed.

The tables below summarise the work of the Waste Enforcement team in October 2024, in response to complaints:

Waste Enforcement Complaints	October 2024	Total YTD 2024
Litter	6	76
Dog Fouling	2	40
Waste Presentation	3	25
Dumping	43	622
CRM complaints (total)	217	1583

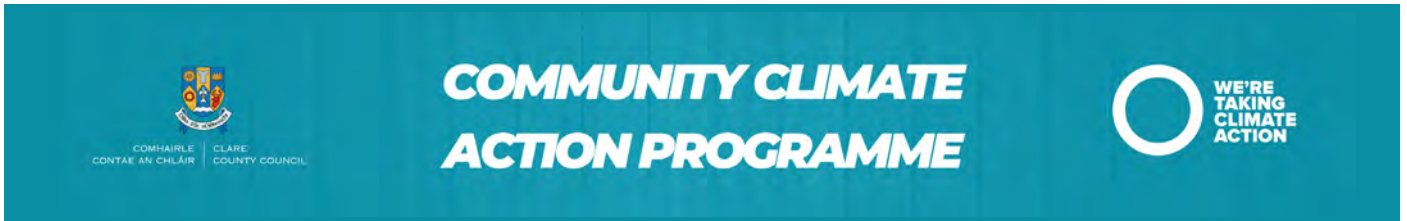
Waste Enforcement Inspections	October 2024
Cert of Registration	3
Waste Facility Permits	2
Unauthorised Sites	2

### Waste management

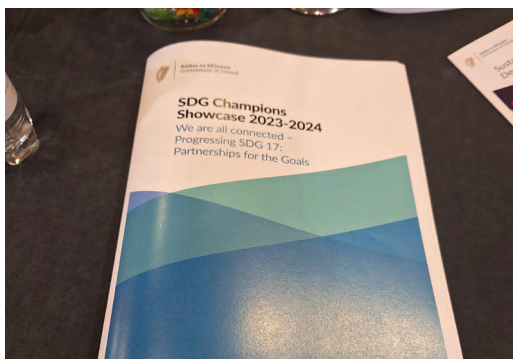
Below is a table indicating waste materials collected at all our Civic Amenity Sites for September.

Civic Amenity Site Waste Streams (KG)	
Item	September (latest data available)
Bulky items	42,580
Cardboard	20,260
Dry Recyclable	428
Paper	9,240
Green Waste	69,340
Mattresses	4,220
Municipal Waste	122,710
Plastic	3,300
Timber	111,830

## CLIMATE ACTION



Clare County Council were delighted to attend the SDG showcase event hosted by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications in Dublin this Month. Environmental Awareness Officer Karen Foley presented on the work the council has done as an SDG Champion over the past year. Clare County Council will now continue as an SDG Ambassador for the coming year.



Community Climate Action Officer Dara Dever attended the Community Activation workshop as part of the series of workshops focused on the Decarbonisation Zones in each county. The workshop heard from a number of speakers regarding Community activation and engagement around Climate Action.



Galway County Council presented on Oileáin Árann, a Remote Community DZ similar in dynamic to Clares DZ ( Kilkee and the Loop Head Peninsula).



The Community Climate Action Programme has commenced with communities across the county endeavoring to implement their approved projects. Community Climate Action Officer Dara Dever visited Kilkee Waterworld this month to meet the project team. As part of this project Kilkee Waterworld will install a ground mounted solar array to the rear of the swimming pool. This will consist of supply and installation of a ground mounted solar array and fencing around the ground mounted solar to protect it. This work is due to commence this month.



Also, the Community Climate Action Officer visited the Clare GAA Centre of Excellence in Caherlohan this month. As part of the Shared Island Fund Clare GAA and Derry GAA are working together on this project. Clare GAA will be installing Solar PV on the centre, bike parking, water refill stations, compost tumblers and native planting. Dara met with David Hoey Facilities Manager and Head Groundskeeper to discuss next steps in the project. Last month we visited the Derry Centre of Excellence to hear about their plans for the project.



Please contact the Community Climate Action Officer Dara Dever on [ddever@clarecoco.ie](mailto:ddever@clarecoco.ie) / [communityclimate@clarecoco.ie](mailto:communityclimate@clarecoco.ie) for further information.

### Clare County Council Awarded Bronze Smarter Travel Mark

Clare County Council is proud to announce that it has been awarded the Smarter Travel Mark at Bronze level, recognizing its ongoing commitment to promoting sustainable and active travel among staff and visitors. The Smarter Travel Mark is a prestigious certification that acknowledges organisations actively supporting sustainable travel options, resulting in reduced carbon emissions and a more engaged workforce. As a Bronze level recipient, Clare County Council has implemented a range of initiatives, including cycle facilities, staff e-bikes, changing rooms, and behaviour change campaigns, all aimed at encouraging sustainable commuting.



### 2024 Sustainable Development Goal Week

In support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Clare County Council hosted their third SDG week with events held across the county from Tuesday 17th September to Tuesday 1st October. This formed part of the wider National and European Sustainable Development Week (ESDW), which ran from 20th-29th of September. Events took place in Ennis, Shannon, Kilrush, Ennistymon and Scariff and addressed a broad spectrum of sustainability topics from upcycling, energy awareness, biodiversity, gardening. The Climate Action team held an SDG and Energy Awareness Day in Áras Contae An Chláir. Having participated in the 2023 SDG Champions Program, Clare County Council will now serve as an SDG Ambassador contributing to promotion, awareness-raising, and implementation of the SDGs, on local, regional and national levels.





### Intergenerational Climate Action Workshop

Clare County Council’s Climate Action and Age Friendly Team, in conjunction with Common Knowledge, supported by the Creative Communities Project delivered an Intergenerational Climate Action Workshop with participants from Clare’s Older People’s Council and Clare Youth Service. This educational hands-on workshop, delivered at The Common Knowledge Centre situated in The Burren & Cliffs of Moher Global Geopark, focused on climate action project planning, permaculture, growing your own food and foraging. Participants learned to build their own planters, how to plant herbs such as thyme and variations of mint and how to make seed bombs and all left the workshop with their own produced planters, herbs and seed bombs. Participants also workshoped climate projects using the Home-works Climate Action Toolkit that can be implemented in their own communities. The event was incredibly well received by all participants. The project was also a positive demonstration of cross departmental collaboration between Clare County Council’s Climate Action and Age Friendly Team and as a result of the success of this project future opportunities for collaboration are already being discussed.

### Autumn Climate Action Newsletter Published

The Climate Action Team is pleased to share the Autumn edition of the Clare Climate Action Newsletter. The newsletter provides updates on climate action in the county, information on upcoming climate events and guidance to support residents, communities and businesses, should you have ideas or suggestions for future content to be included in the newsletter don’t hesitate to contact the Climate Action Team. The newsletter is also accessible on the Clare Climate Action Engagement Page: <https://yoursay.clarecoco.ie/climate-action-plan>



## WATER

### Rural Water Programme

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

We now await funding approval from the Department in relation to Multi-annual Rural Water (MARWP) 2024-2026 submissions, upon receipt of same we will inform all successful Group Water Schemes. Group Water Scheme Taking in Charge applications continue to be progressed by the Clare Rural Water Team.

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

### Raheen GWS

New booster pump recently installed.

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, 26 applications have been received for 2024.

All applications under the ‘Grant for Improvement Works to a Private Water Supply’ under the Rural Water Programme continue to be processed by the Rural Water Team, 34 applications have been received to date in 2024. Post works final inspections for 2023 works within the last 12 months are ongoing.

# SHANNON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

## Shannon Chamber Sustainability Conference 2024

The Shannon Chamber Sustainability Conference on the 2nd October was attended by Anne Griffin A/SEO and was the culmination of a week-long series of events considering issues around sustainability with a focus on innovative solutions, environmental awareness, and sustainable business practices.



## Housing Directorate Presentation

On 9th October, the Housing Department hosted a briefing with the Shannon MD elected members to outline their work programme and the wider housing activities and policies.



## Storm Ashley

Following Storm Ashley our crews were deployed to assist in the clear up of fallen trees and drainage works.



## Current Projects



There are a number of Traffic Calming and Pedestrian Crossing projects under way at the moment including Bealach Bui and Shannon Springs Hotel Crossings which are funded through the Dept. of Transport's Low Cost Safety Schemes grant. The works are designed by the Road Design Team and delivered by the Municipal District Office. These projects will greatly assist pedestrian permeability at key locations in the town.



## Works underway

- Ongoing tree maintenance / hedge cutting in Shannon town, Sixmilebridge, West-bury, Newmarket on Fergus, Clonlara
- Resurfacing / Overlay works completed in Fairfield in Par-teen
- Resurfacing / Overlay works completed in Bothar na Loiste, Ballycasey, Shannon
- Works associated with the CRM, issues raised by members of the public and local representative.

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- General maintenance works throughout the municipal district
- Jetting / Cleaning out sections of the drainage network in Westbury, Shannon Banks, Ardnacrusha
- Jetting / Cleaning out sections of the drainage network in Shannon Industrial Estate
- Stage 1 Upgrade works for 2024 completed for the Storm Water Pump House for Westbury housing estate
- Grass maintenance is ongoing throughout the municipal district, final cut for the sea-son to be completed in early November
- Upgrade work to 2 new pedestrian crossings and associated works on Bothar na Loiste Ballycasey Shannon
- Installation of new safety road sign to house in gestate in Sixmilebridge & Shannon
- Installation of a new footpath outside Radharc An Oir on the R472 Newmarket on Fergus
- Installation of school safety bollards in Sixmilebridge and Shannon town.

### Shannon Airport Sunflower Initiative

On Monday 21st October Shannon Airport hosted an event to announce they had joined the global Hidden Disabilities Sunflower initiative. This allows passengers with hidden disabilities to avail of a lanyard which indicates they would appreciate an offer of support from the airport team. This event was attended by Cathaoirleach Cllr. Pat O’Gorman, Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr Donna McGettigan and A Griffin, Acting Senior Executive Officer from Shannon MD. Mayor of Clare Alan O Callaghan and Cllr Mary Howard were also in attendance on behalf of Clare County Council.

