



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

TUARASCÁIL MHÍOSÚIL ÓN PHRÍOMHFHEIDHMEANNACH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Deireadh Fómhair / October
2024



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RURAL DEVELOPMENT

CLAR PROJECT

Inagh River Walk



Works have been completed by Inagh Tidy Towns on the Inagh River Walk. The project received funding of €22,000 under the CLAR 2023 Programme.

The Inagh River Walk, situated in the heart of Inagh village, plays a central role in the community. Prior to completion of the project, access to the River Walk was hindered by a series of steps, posing significant challenges for many users, particularly those with mobility issues. To address this, works were carried out to enhance accessibility. The works involved the installation of an access ramp, kerbing, and the resurfacing of the walkway. These improvements are designed to benefit people of all ages and abilities, fostering greater inclusion and accessibility for the entire community.

O'Callaghan's Mills

O'Callaghan's Mills GAA Club and O'Callaghan's Mills Community Council have completed resurfacing works at the local car park with assistance of a grant of €50,000 under the CLAR 2023 Grant Scheme. The aim of the project was to transform the existing car park into a safe, functional, and visually appealing space that meets the needs of the entire community and its visitors. By addressing the current health and safety hazards, such as

the uneven, waterlogged surface and lack of dedicated parking spaces, the project sought to create a safer environment for everyone, including those with mobility issues. Additionally, the improvements should help to reduce traffic congestion, provide proper bicycle storage, and enhance the overall appearance of the area, making it a welcoming and accessible space for all who use it. This revitalisation will also contribute positively to the community's Tidy Town efforts, fostering a sense of pride and encouraging more frequent use of the facilities.



RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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:

1. Cratloe Community Hall: Works were carried out to widen the driveway at Cratloe Community Hall to improve safety and accessibility. The project was managed and delivered by Cratloe Community Council with funding of €25,000 under CRF 2023
2. Doonass Burial Ground: Funding of €7k under CRF 2023 was used to assist the Doonass Burial Ground Committee with the costs of new entrance gates gravelled walkways, piers, splay wall and associated works at the newly extended burial ground
3. Kincora Kids Club: Killaloe Community Development CLG were awarded funding of €57,000 under the CRF 2023 which enables the group to develop a sensory garden at the Kincora Kids Club in Killaloe.
4. Parteen Meelick Walking Track: Parteen Meelick GAA and Camogie Club received €40,000 under CRF 2023 which enabled them to upgrade the walking track at Parteen Meelick GAA and Camogie Club
5. Kilkee Community Centre: Funding of €11,577 was awarded to Kilkee Community Centre that enabled internal and external painting of the Community Centre Building.
6. Hastings Cottage: Limerick and Clare ETB received funding of €23,800 under CRF 2023 which enabled the purchase and installation of a polytunnel, garden shed, raised beds and gardening equipment at the allotment space, Hastings Cottage, Shannon.





Director Rural and Community Bernadette Haugh, Frank Cullinan Staff Officer Rural and Community with Minister Joe O'Brien and attendees at the showcase event.

On Monday the 23rd September 2024 the Department's Social Inclusion and Communities Unit (SICU) hosted a joint Empowering Communities Programme (ECP) and Community Development Programme (CDP) National Showcase event to highlight the important work that is being undertaken and delivered through both programmes. It was also an opportunity to network and to share the learnings that have been gathered so far. The event was attended by Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Deputy Joe O'Brien, to highlight the ongoing work with marginalised and disadvantaged communities and how through collaboration with communities, stakeholders, LCDC's and local authorities, meaningful community engagement and development is taking place and benefitting communities.

Under the Community Development Programme, ten projects were selected for funding which included the Clare Traveller Community Development Programme, the aim of which is to use community development as an approach to address poverty, social exclusion and inequality and promote human rights. The project is delivered by Clare Local Development Company and overseen by the Clare Local Community Development Committee. Clare Traveller CDP is also conducting the first ever peer-to-peer county wide Traveller accommodation needs analysis in collaboration Clare County Council, CENA, and Clare Local Development Company.

Seancoill Parteen Men's Shed

Men's Shed Parteen were very interested in fostering the building of traditional furniture. Members signed up when an offer was made to teach them how to build sugans chairs. They applied for funding to purchase wood, sisal/twine, varnish, stain and glue. They are hoping to make traditional sugan chairs, to keep the 300-year tradition of Sugan chairs alive and well. Having been approved for funding under CLAGS 2024, Seancoill Parteen Men's Shed recently completed a few of the chairs which Conor Leyden RCDO Shannon MD went to view.

RCDO Seamus Murrhly and Siobhan O Reilly AO, visit Querrin Schoolhouse CLG who received funding of €221,400 under the

town and village renewal scheme.

The project involves the renovation and repurposing of the vacant Querrin Schoolhouse building to create a multi-purpose, self-financing, community asset.



The Rural & Community Development Officer has worked with the group from the initial idea and concept and is now assisting the group in progressing the project to procurement stage.

RCDO, Seamus Murrhly, visits the West Clare Women's Group in Kilkee

The Rural & Community Development Officer (RCDO) has worked in Conjunction with Mental Health Ireland to establish a women's group that now meets weekly and are taking part in a wide variety of classes and courses including wellness, arts and crafts, dance and music. The RCDO has assisted the group in setting up the structure, hiring venues and accessing funding.



Celebrating Unity and Growth: Mural and Garden Projects in Cloughleigh, Ennis

The Cloughleigh Community Development Group, in collaboration with the Baha'i Community, has brought to life two exciting community enhancement projects: a vibrant mural and a flourishing flower garden.

The mural, located in the heart of Cloughleigh, is a striking visual representation of the community's spirit of unity and diversity. Local artists and volunteers from the Baha'i Community, alongside members of the Cloughleigh Community Development Group, came together to design and paint a mural that reflects the area's unique culture and aspirations.

Both the mural and garden project were made possible through funding from Clare County Council's CLAGS scheme and the Creative Ireland Programme in Clare.



Conor Leyden RCDO Shannon MD leading the way by using the Shannon MD electric bike



Burial Ground Boundary Wall Works

The Burial Grounds Unit have initiated a technical study on the rectification and conservation of historic boundary walls at Killuran Burial Ground and Tulla Burial Ground. Both burial grounds are of high historic importance and contain a number of valuable heritage assets. Clare County Council have appointed conservation specialists Chris Southgate & Associates to lead on the development of this study. The study will look at the most appropriate form of restoration in accordance with best practice conservation guidelines. It is anticipated that the study will form the basis for future capital works. It is expected that the study will conclude in Q4 2024.



Tulla Burial Ground.

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

was initiated in September to appoint an engineering-led design team to provide specialist input into the detailed development of the project. It is expected that the tender process will be finalised in October.

Clare Age Friendly Programme

Building on the success of last year, the Clare Older People’s Council and the Clare Age Friendly Programme are hosting the Health and Wellbeing Age Expo 2024, which is taking place during Positive Ageing week, on Thursday 3rd of October in Treacy’s West County Hotel from 11:00am to 4:00pm. The Health and Wellbeing Age Expo will showcase 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 includes a varied schedule of speakers, taster sessions, tech support and presentations on topical issues and services of relevance to older people. All are welcome to the event.

Health & Wellbeing Age Expo 2024

The Clare Older People’s Council and the Clare Age Friendly Programme are hosting a Health & Wellbeing Age Expo during Positive Ageing Week to showcase the supports and services available for older people living in County Clare.

Date: Thursday, 3rd October 2024
Location: Treacy’s West County Hotel, Ennis, V95 CPCT
Time: 11am to 4pm

Subsidised Lunch Rates

All are welcome

For more information please contact
agefriendlyclare@clarecoco.ie or telephone (065) 6846240

- Free Health Checks
- Guest Speakers
- Themed Breakout Rooms
- Cooking Demo

Mairead Egan, Community Impact Co-ordinator with ALONE, provided Digital Champion training to members of the Clare Older People’s Council and, separately, to Transition Year students from St. Josephs Secondary School, Tulla in preparation for the upcoming Health and Wellbeing Age Expo.



Clare Cultural Companions

The Clare Cultural Companions initiative hosted a special social gathering to Loophead Lighthouse and Vandeleur Walled Gardens and Visitor Centre on Thursday, 5th of September for older people from Ukraine who are living Co. Clare. Forty people attended the event on a beautiful sunny day to experience the sights, culture and culinary delights of the Loophead peninsula. The event was held in collaboration with Clare Local Development Company, with a view to hold similar events in the future.



HEALTHY CLARE

Clare Autumn Harvest Garden & Music Festival



Healthy Clare continues to support the Clare Garden Festival as it expands. The Ennis Harvest Festival is a key development to the annual Clare Garden Festival, showing that individuals can continue to explore growing, cooking and eating into the autumn and winter season. The day provided opportunities for collaborating, networking and learning.

Supporting Meals and Wheels Programme North Clare

Under Healthy Clare, Core Outcome 1: Healthy Weight, Healthy Clare has awarded €2,000 to Lisdoonvarna Failte to support the expansion of the Meals on Wheels Programme in North Clare. This funding will be used to contribute towards the staffing of the Meals on Wheels administrator post which provides on the ground support in the distribution of meals to older adults who are part of the Meals on Wheels programme. Tasks covered under this role include administration, advertising, co-ordinating with families, clients, volunteers and Obair staff.



Additional Funding Clare County Council FREE Period Poverty Initiative



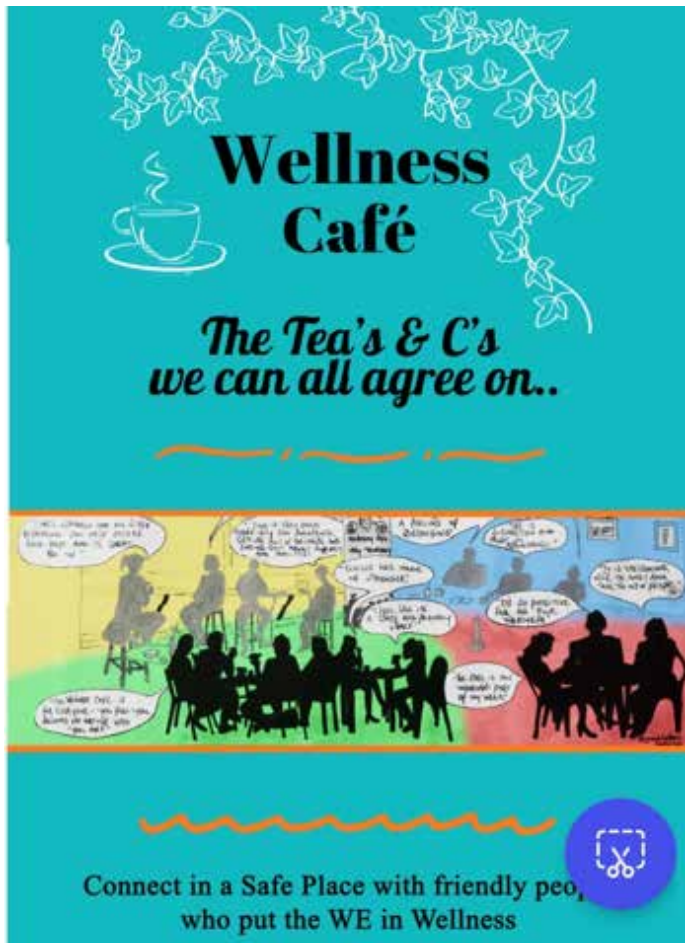
Healthy Clare, together with the Rural Department have been awarded an additional €10,000 to further develop the project. This will allow for the programme to be expanded into new areas to support individuals and communities in disadvantaged areas which are supported under Clare County Council and the Healthy Clare Fund. Recently these services have included Lisdoonvarna Failte and 'Dun na nÓir' Community Group, which supports people with disabilities.

Free period products which include tampons and period pads, are available in participating Local Authority owned and publicly accessible buildings including Clare Libraries, Active Ennis facilities, lifeguard stations, public toilet facilities and each of the Municipal District Offices. If your community would like to be involved in this initiative and is not currently receiving these products free of charge from any other Government Department programme, they should reach out to the Healthy Clare Coordinator.

To date in 2024, 690 boxes of tampons have been distributed amongst our partners in this initiative with a further 950 packets of sanitary pads distributed.

For more information about the campaign, please visit [Clare County Council's Free Period Products Campaign to Support Period Poverty](#) | [Clare County Council Community Engagement \(clarecoco.ie\)](#)

Wellness Café at Glór



In September a group service staff, primarily from the HSE Mental Health Services, Mental Health Ireland, Healthy Clare came together with service users from the mental health services to take part in Peer-Led Wellness Café training, developed by Sharon Ferguson, Mental Health and Wellbeing Project Officer, ATU Donegal. Sharon set up the first Wellness Café in Donegal. There is now a total of 15 active Wellness Cafés in Donegal.

The first Peer-Led Wellness Café initiative is now open in Glór, with meetings held every Monday (except Public Holidays) between 10.30am and 12pm. The purpose of the café is to welcome individuals into the space to connect and socialise with peers. While there will be staff attending from the services, if support is needed, the objective is not to talk specifically about mental health, but rather to normalise health and wellbeing by chatting about daily life, hobbies, interests, hopes and plans. The core focus of the Peer Wellness Café is promoting social connection for positive mental health.

The training that took place in September, with Sharon Ferguson, focused on the process involved in setting up a Peer-Led Wellness Café, agreement of Terms of Reference and how to facilitate peer discussion.

Health and Wellbeing Page Clare Echo

Health Clare and the Rural Department have come together to recommence the weekly Health and Wellbeing page in the Clare Echo. September saw a number of features highlighted to include;

- Week 1: Mid West Connecting for Life and Clare Suicide Bereavement Support Service, to mark the beginning of the Green Ribbon Mental Health Campaign and World Suicide Prevention Day (10th October).
- Week 2: Featured the Alzheimer's Society to mark World Alzheimer's Day (September 21st).
- Week 3: Promoting the Age Friendly Health and Wellbeing Expo.



Clare's Health and Wellbeing Age Expo to return on October 3rd

FOLLOWING on from the success of last year's event, Clare Older People's Council, part of Clare County Council's Age Friendly County Programme, will again host this year's Health and Wellbeing Age Expo on Thursday, 3rd of October at Deane's West County Hotel, Ennis from 11am to 4pm.

The Age Expo will showcase the supports and services available in County Clare that are aimed at Older People. The Mid West Community Healthcare support team, the longest Care Programme for Older Persons, ComEag, ALINE, Clare Libraries, Local Link and the Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme are among those displaying at the event.

The Age Expo will provide valuable insights into various services available locally to enhance quality of life, including health care, nutrition, and social programs tailored for older adults. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage with experts, gain knowledge on health needs and preventive measures. The Age Expo will also present networking opportunities which allow for connections with service providers and peers, fostering community and support. The event aims to promote awareness, education, and resources, helping older people in County Clare to maintain their independence and well-being.

Guest speakers will discuss a range of topics, from nutrition to mental health, and the latest science, which proved popular at last year's event, include Tai Chi, chair yoga, touch support and singing. These latter sessions are so close people will think they like to participate in a singing group or attend a Tai Chi class. All the talks and the activities are free, as is entry to the expo.

The Irish Heart Foundation will also carry out free health checks during the event. One site parking is available, and the public bus stop is just outside the venue.

Ch. Alan O'Callaghan, Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council said: "I look to acknowledge the work of the Clare Older People's Council and its members in coordinating the 'Health and Wellbeing Age Expo for Clare. I hope and would like to see you, and all those who are interested in learning about supports, services, and opportunities available for older people in County Clare to attend the Age Expo."

Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Clare County Council and Chair of the Age Friendly Ireland Alliance said, "Clare County Council recognises the importance of being an Age Friendly County, particularly through our ongoing commitment to both the Age Friendly Clare and Healthy Clare Programmes, being an Age Friendly society benefits everyone in the county, regardless of their age. Such work cannot happen in isolation, however, which is why I would like to commend all the community, voluntary, public and private sector organisations participating in the Age Expo. Events like this are an important platform for service providers and users to meet and talk to one another."

Maige O'Callaghan, PhD of Clare Older People's Council encouraged not just older people to attend the Expo, but younger family members too. "One of the great things about growing old in Ireland today is that you, in the Clare Older People's Council are helping to pave the way for older people to enjoy a healthy and happy final stage of life. Ireland has an ageing population and we all need to be taking care of ourselves physically, mentally and emotionally. This year's event will demonstrate a range of goods and services to support older people to do this."

Health & Wellbeing Age Expo 2024

The Clare Older People's Council and the Clare Age Friendly Programme are hosting a Health & Wellbeing Age Expo during Positive Ageing Week to showcase the supports and services available for older people living in County Clare.

Date: Thursday, 3rd October 2024
Location: Treacy's West County Hotel, Ennis, V93 PCFT
Time: 11am to 4pm

All are welcome

For more information please contact agefriendlyclare@clarecoco.ie or telephone (065) 6846240

Subsidised Lunch Rates

Free of charge for Clare Older People's Council members and their families

Shannon Family Resource Centre

Clare County Council

LCDC

SDG

Clare

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

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	108
Freedom of Information Internal Review Applications	6	13	8	4	4
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	22

Communications

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

Media releases issued during September 2024 included:

- Clare County Council becomes first Local Authority to be awarded Platinum for Excellence Through People
- Clare County Council raises Pride Flag over Áras Contae an Chláir
- Clare County Council Champions Three Major Sport Infrastructure Projects as it Supports Applications for LSSIF Funding.
- Clare County Council votes to retain LPT at current rate.
- Ceardlann ar Thraidisiún Scéalaíocht na mBard in Inis d’Oíche Chultúir
- Clare County Council hosts Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Week events throughout the county
- County Clare’s Health and Wellbeing Age Expo on October 3rd, 2024
- “Clare Interactive”, an Art Exhibition by Cathal Butler
- Culture Night 2024 - Nearly 50 Events Across the County
- Lecture Series resumes at Clare Museum with talk on Bronze Age Goldwork
- Clare Libraries Highlight Sensory Resources and Services as part of this Year’s National Public Libraries Open Day Celebrations.
- Construction Contracts Signed for Gort Road Housing Development

- People of Kilrush invited to have their say on future of old Mars Cinema
- Community hears of strong demand and economic benefit to reopen Crusheen Railway Station

Social Media

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

In the period 1 September-1 October 2024, the Communications Office:

- Posted 44 times on Facebook, with total followers now 20,501.
- Posted 44 times on X (formerly Twitter), with total followers now at 8,706.
- Instagram followers are now 3,720.
- (Statistics accurate as of 1/10/2024)



CULTURAL SERVICES – LIBRARY, ARTS, MUSEUM & ARCHIVES MANAGEMENT SUMMER REPORT 2024

Clare County Library

Work is progressing on the new library building in Ennis with final phase elements such as M&E, IT, furniture fit out, signage and snagging ongoing during the month.




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

1,896 E-Books	4,265 E-Audiobooks	995 E-Magazines
897 Online Courses	4,349 Pressreader	42 Transparent Languages

Marketing & Social media

Library staff hosted an information stand at the Clare Pride Family Day in glór on the 21st September. One media release on the National Libraries Open Day on 28th September was circulated. Libraries showcased the range of sensory resources and services available and programmed a number of events on the day.

A print and digital edition of the library newsletter was circulated for library patrons.

	Total Followers	New Followers	Post Reach/ Impressions	Post Likes
	7,823	20	39,200	232
	2,234	0	1,500	119
	2,178	0	1,101	8

Library Activities in Figures

Total number of in branch events	108
Total audiences at in branch events	1,028
Total number of outreach events	4
Total number of deliveries	7
Total number of class novels issued	8

Right to Read



Stories and Rhymes in Irish for young children with Ceri.

Adult Literacy

Library staff began a six-week online training course in literacy awareness together with library staff from Limerick City and County Libraries. This course is funded by the ALL Collaboration and Innovation Fund. The Summer Stars Reading Challenge has drawn to a close with a total of 1,926 children taking part and receiving certificates at the end. The Little Library Book Bag is ongoing with targeted promotion in local newspapers and on Clare FM. 500 bags have been collected so far by children who are starting school in September.



Needle felting classes hosted by Gene Clohessy, in partnership with the LCETB in Kilkee Library

Creative Ireland

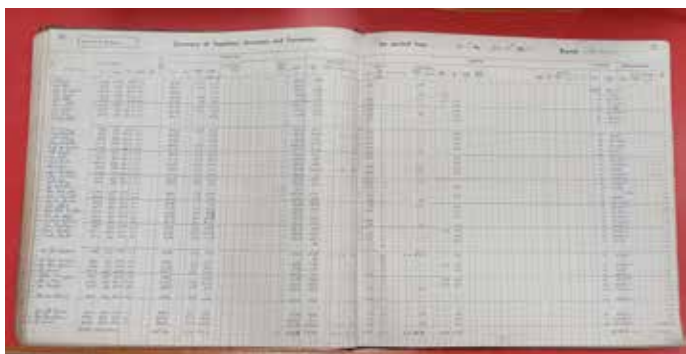
The third gathering of the ‘Birds of a Feather’ Shared Island group took place on the island of Inishbofin, approximately 50 women travelled from Ennis, Ballinasloe and Belfast to meet, craft, learn new skills and deepen already developing relationships. Over the 3 days of 9th -11th September the women took part in story sharing workshops, retail training, craft classes and a talk with Australian designer Bronwyn Lavelle. Planning for the next trip to Belfast has already begun.



Earlier in the month Idir Dhá Thrá presented Éist, a night of quiet music in North Clare, the event sought to engage listeners in the experience of deep listening and to cultivate a heightened awareness of sonic environments. Using an ambient/electroacoustic framework, they showcased two Irish composers who use natural soundscapes combined with electronic manipulations.

On September 14th at the Courthouse Gallery in Ennistymon, a night of celebration of the European Mumming tradition took place, bringing together the local and Eastern European expressions of these shared, ancient practices with music and dance. This event took place as part of the 'The legacy of the Céilí and Dance Bands of Ennistymon'. Creative Ireland Clare have been awarded funding 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 are in the process of planning a series of workshops and impact measurement tools.

Local Studies



Clare Local Studies Centre added another collection to the Clare Libraries and Archives collection, Kevin Haugh donated materials relating to the Labasheeda creamery. This contains a wealth of information on farming and the economy in the area. The third tranche of entries from the 1821 census was published on the Clare Libraries website, and the 1825 Freeholders list is transcribed, and will also be put on the site. The Local Studies Librarian gave a talk on milling and related industrial activities in North and West Clare to the North Clare Historical Society in Ennistymon.

The programme for Clare Libraries History Week which will take place next month is in place and has been curated by Residence Historian Terry Dunne. The programme will include a series of historical lecture and topics will include the Ordnance Survey in Clare, Bindon Street, slobland reclamation and Clare's changing landscape in maps. Details can be found at <https://clarelibraries.ie/projects/history-week-2024/>

Clare Archives

Clare Archives received a donation of photographic material of Doolin and Carrigaholt Pier and maps relating to the area. They are of unknown provenance and the archivist is currently investigating.

There was ongoing cataloguing of the Barrett Collection. There were also general archival queries relating to private collections, local authority collections and queries relating to Our Lady's.

Clare Arts Office

Thousands of people attended Culture Night on 20th Sept with over 50 events taking place in 38 locations throughout the county. The Artist in Schools Scheme was completed with residencies in St. Conaire's NS in Shannon and work with the Dulick Centre began as part of the Embrace Arts and Disability programme. Three exhibitions took place in Ennis, Scariff and Kilkee in September. Culturlann Sweeney also hosted the Kilkee Arts Festival and a private film screening. The Film Club also returned for a monthly showing.

Three Arts in Clare slots happened on Clare FM. The Arts Office assisted two tourism productions shooting at Lahinch and the Burren and we assisted with three further enquiries for potential future filming in Clare. The Arts in the Community programme continued in St. Joseph's Hospital, Ennis and in Raheen Hospital. Clare Youth Theatre returned after the summer break with forty young people now participating in theatre activities weekly. A film screening of the summer production of 'Roisín's Robe' also took place, this was a Decade of Centenaries Project.

Four Creative Ireland funded PRISM projects were completed in Killaloe, Ennistymon, Lahinch and Liscannor with a further three underway in Ennis, Lisdoonvarna and Ennistymon.



Arts Social Media

Facebook 25/8/24-23/9/24					
	Post reach	Post engagement	New Page likes	New Page followers	Total followers
Clare Arts Office	46,829	3,524	17	69	3,389
Cultúrlann Sweeney	3,054	133	3	8	2,088
CYT - Clare Youth Theatre	250	10	2	3	580
Riches of Clare	2,424	536	3	5	2,867
Clare Culture Night	7,768	996	12	28	1,315
Arts In Clare Group					3,343
Clare Trad Group					2,713
Instagram 25/8/24-23/9/24					
Account	Followers	Reach			
Clare Arts Office	833	1249			
Culture Night	218	7768			

Clare Museum

Members of Friends of Limerick Lace viewing the Clare Embroidery Collection

The education officer in Clare Museum has been working on a calendar of events and activities at the museum for the remainder of 2024 and 2025. Speakers for the Winter Lecture Series have been arranged for October to March 2025. A number of needlework and lace-making groups have visited the Museum to view the Clare Embroidery Collection. Friends of Limerick Lace visited the museum to study the collection, others saw the collection from outreach visits.

A number of new artefacts were received during the month, including a rent ledger from Colonel George Wyndham, a

painting by Frederick William Burton from New Zealand, and a programme from the All-Ireland Hurling final and a sliothar and hurley, signed by the Clare team that won the title. Work continued on the new Strategic Management Plan for the museum.

The curator catalogued the new acquisitions and made further progress with the cataloguing of the Georgina Frost collection. The museum welcomed several groups of English language students from Atlas Language School.

The curator met with the staff from the Michael Cusack Centre to discuss areas of mutual co-operation. The centre may be used as a venue for outreach work.

The curator and education officer met with the Council's Community Archaeologist and have begun a collaborative working relationship with her.



KILLALOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Attendance of Clare FM to the Killaloe MD Offices as part of Clare FM roadshow



Killaloe Municipal District hosted Clare FM Morning Focus at our offices in Scarriff. The Cathaoirleach of the MD Cllr Joe Cooney and Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner attended the programme and gave an overview of the variety of strategies, initiatives and work projects that are underway in the MD.

Re-Opening of Crusheen Railway Station



September commenced with a meeting between the Cathaoirleach and Elected Members of Killaloe MD, Senior Planner Brian McCarthy and Jim Meade CEO of Irish Rail and Sinead Clair Delivery Manager of Irish Rail. At a positive, constructive and open discussion, the CEO of Irish Rail acknowledged the significant progress and initiatives the MD and Local Authority have taken to advance the case and proposition for the reopening of the Rail Station, since the initial meeting hosted in 2023. The Members and Senior Planner outlined the purchase of an adjoining landbank to facilitate any infrastructural works required by Irish Rail, the collaboration of a number of key stakeholders and the preparation of a Socio-Economic Report on the benefits of Re-opening Crusheen Railway Station.

Launch of a Socio-Economic Report on the benefits of Re-opening Crusheen Railway Station

At a packed event in Crusheen on 4th September attended by Elected Members of Clare Co. Council, Members of the Oireachtas, West on Track, and a range of local stakeholders, the Cathaoirleach of Killaloe MD launched the “Socio-economic study on the benefits of Re-opening Crusheen Railway Station”. Cllr Cooney indicated that The re-opening of the Crusheen railway station is a strategic objective



of the Elected Members of the Municipal District of Killaloe Strategy and Workplan. Speaking at the launch, Senior Planner, Brian McCarthy outlined, “Census 2022 demonstrated that Crusheen and the catchment area of the railway station from Tulla to Ruan has seen a significant increase in population in recent years and the Council believes it is now critically important from a sustainability point of view that the rail service be reinstated to serve the area. The socio-economic study was commissioned by Clare County Council earlier in the year to provide an evidence-based approach to advocating for reopening the Crusheen rail stop”. Attendees heard that in the context of demonstrating a demand for a rail service approximately 2,680 employees currently live in the catchment of the station with 85% drive to work. Over 600 students including 3rd level and reside in the area, with 44% of 3rd level students commuting to college every day. There is an estimated market of 1,700 commuters and students currently living in the catchment of the station and an estimated economic value to the local economy of €25million arising from associated employment opportunities.

Mark O’Connell, Director of Repucon and author of the report, said, “As a catalyst for rural sustainability, the social and economic benefits of re-opening the rail station will be a significant



catalyst for community and rural regeneration. Applying all measures of potential community, economic and environmental impact, the re-instatement of a passenger rail service in Crusheen would represent a significant return on investment for the community. From a regenerative perspective, it will deliver significant social and environmental dividends and add considerably to the social fabric of the area. The scale of participation in this research process by the local community demonstrates the level of demand that exists for the service. From a value for money perspective, the projected 15-year return on investment of €5.50 for each €1 of capital investment made demonstrates a significant impact on the community and the wider Clare economy”.

Ballycuggeran Enhancements

Works near conclusion on the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme ORIS project for Ballycuggeran with the installation and completion in September of a forest themes Outdoor play area. The play area has proved an immediate hit with children and families visiting the amenity site during the fine weather in September and complements the accessibility enhancements of disability hoists and improvements to the footpaths. Over the coming weeks a tender will be sought to prepare a visitor enhancement and overall Masterplan for Ballycuggeran to manage in a coherent plan-led approach the enhancements of the area, following a further increase in visitor numbers to the amenity this year and the anticipated additional visitors arising from the anticipated opening of Killaloe Bypass in 2025.

During the course of September a number of outdoor works projects were completed.

1. Line Marking Quin Village
2. Line Marking and enhanced signage, Kilmurray National School
3. Commencement of works Low Cost Safety Scheme–Ogonelloe Village
4. Continuation of footpath enhancement and cycleway construction at Scariff National School and Fossabeg Housing Development , Scarriff, as part of an overall pedestrian and cycle connectivity project from the school to adjoining housing development and adjoining amenities.



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

HOUSING

For 2024 the housing public counter will remain open to the public, without appointment, from 9am until 1pm and by appointment after 1pm. Customers who require appointments in the afternoon can call 065 6846334 to schedule same.

The Clare Homeless Action Team (HAT) office is open by appointment during office hours and can be contacted on 065 684 6291 or by email: hat@clarecoco.ie. Our Ukrainian support team can be contacted on 065 6846577 or by email: communityresponsforum@clarecoco.ie. Our Local Authority Integration Team can be reached at 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 is being prepared, The Chief Executive will be issuing same to elected members at end of October for review and it is expected it will be on agenda for December Council meeting. Membership of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee is

due for ratification by Council with first meeting planned for end of October.

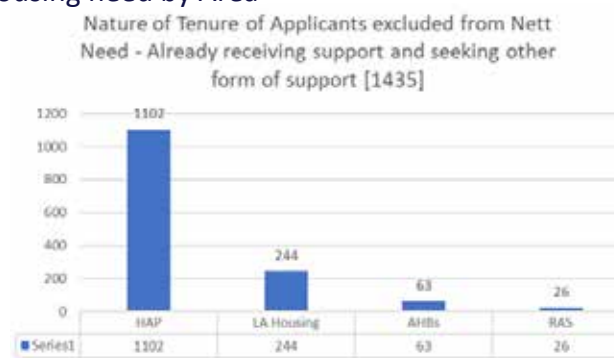
Social Housing Demand

The highest demand throughout the county remains for 1 and 2-bedroomed properties. There are 2,201 applicant households (77%) who have a requirement for this property type.

Current Housing need as of 27/09/2024

Total Households on List	2,875	
Transfer Applicants (see below)		1,435
Net Need	11,440	

Housing need by Area



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	954	201	72	1227
SHANNON	172	35	15	222
CLARECASTLE	151	27	9	187
INAGH/ENNISTYMON/LAHINCH	120	25	6	151
KILRUSH	92	26	8	126
FEAKLE/SCARIFF/WHITEGATE	95	26	3	124
MEELICK/PARTEEN/WESTBURY	69	28	11	108
MILTOWN MALBAY/MULLAGH/QUILTY	71	10	1	82
COROFIN/RUAN	63	18	1	82
KILKEE/CROSS/CARRIGAHOLT	64	15	1	80
NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS	52	20	4	76
KILLALOE	53	14	2	69
LISDOONVARNA/BALLYVAUGHAN	47	12	3	62
SIXMILEBRIDGE	44	12	5	61
COORACLARE/DOONBEG	33	11	5	49
TULLA/KILKISHEN/BROADFORD	34	8	3	45
CLONLARA	26	7	2	35

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

KILDYSART/BALLYNACALLY	21	4	3	28
QUIN	16	8	3	27
KILMIHIL	9	5	2	16
KILMALEY	9	2		11
KILFENORA	6	1		7
Grand Total	2,201	515	159	2,875

Newly Qualified Applicants Housing Allocations

Clare County Council continues to work with the Approved



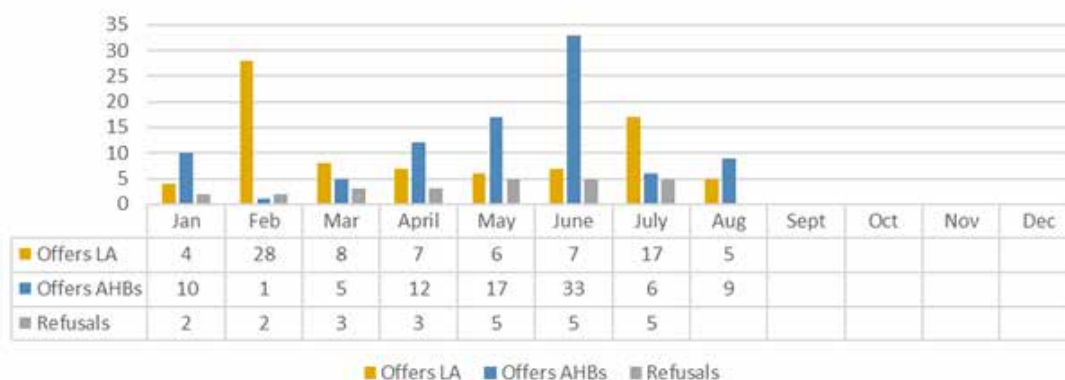
Housing Bodies in relation to the provision of social housing. A new social housing development (CALF turnkey) delivered by Co-Operative Housing Ireland (CHI) located at Radharc an tSruthain, Quin was recently advertised on our CBL website.

This development, which is being delivered in two phases, comprises 2,3 and 4 bedroomed houses and attracted a high number of expressions of interest. The Allocations process in relation to this development is now completed, and the nominated households have been forwarded to CHI.

In addition, 5 houses located at Radharc an Doire, Shannon, were recently advertised on the CBL website. These properties will be managed by Cluid Housing and are delivered under Part V of the Planning and Development Act 200 – 2021. The Allocations Team are currently assessing expressions of interest received for this development and also for the following social housing developments: -

- Apartments located at Clonroad Ennis – these units are being delivered by St Vincent de Paul.
- New Social Housing development of 3 and 4 bedroomed houses located at Baile ui Loideain, Sixmilebridge.
- New Social Housing development of 1,2 and3 bedroomed apartments located at Droichead Nua, Ballymingoue, Scarriff

Offers & Refusals 2024 Total offers 175. Refusal rate 14%



Tenant Purchase Incremental Scheme

There remains significant interest in the LA Tenant Purchase Incremental Scheme. We currently have 22 open cases at various stages of the process. of which up to 4 more may finalise sales in 2024. The sale of four 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 maintaining our newer stock we have agreed that properties purchased or built since 1st January 2016 will not be available for sale

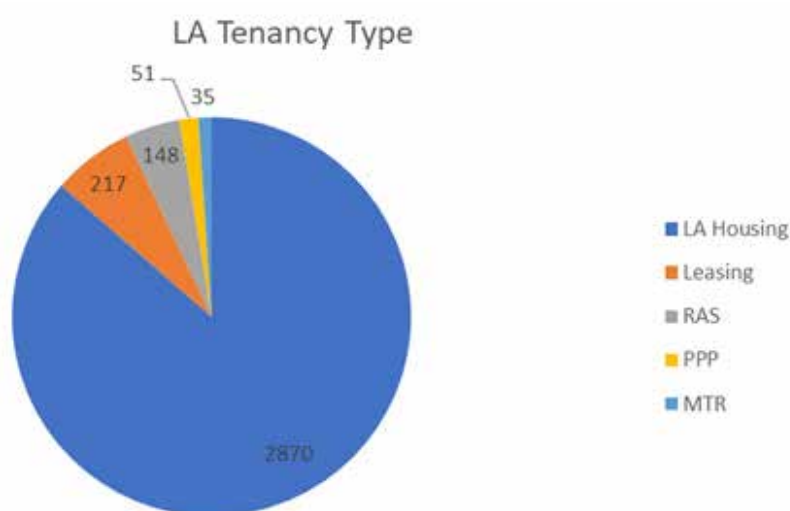
under this scheme. This can be reviewed at end of current Housing Delivery Plan period in 2026. We have also agreed that 1-bedroom properties will not be available under the scheme.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Housing Tenancies:

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

27th September 2024			
MD	Allocated	Occupied	Total
Ennis MD	2	1,281	1,283
Killaloe MD	0	357	357
Shannon MD	1	740	741
West Clare MD	0	954	954
Grand Total	3	3,332	3,335



There are 148 RAS, 217 leases (122 Long term and 95 short term leases). 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 Accommod.	3	7	0	0	10
Derelict Properties	0	0	0	0	0
Projects	3	4	1	2	10
Casual Vacancies	17	16	10	5	48
TOTAL	23	27	11	7	68

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 2 Repossession Orders in court this year to date, and they also supported the Rents team where there was a property re-possessed for significant arrears of rents. 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 August and a total of 1,176 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. Listed hereunder shows details of work being undertaken by the Estate Management team this year to date.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

	Total year to date	23 Aug - 27 Sept
Complaints recd re breaches of Tenancy	741	187
Tenancy Visits	1,176	113
Referrals to TSS (including Tusla)	45	4
Tenancy Notifications/Warnings issued	54	4
Abandonment Notices issued	12	0
Keys collected from Casual Vacancies	44	12
Repossession Orders	3	0

Private Rented inspections:

665 inspections have been carried out up to 1st 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.

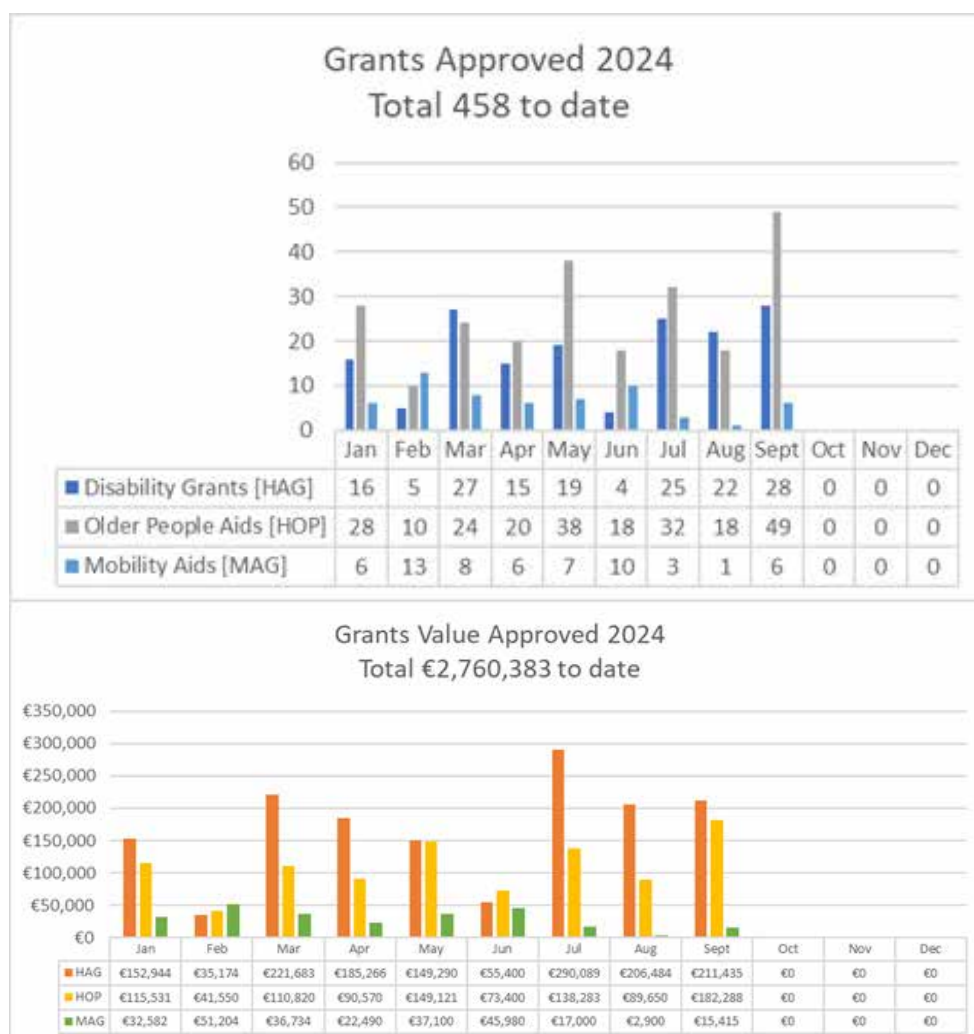
Clare County Council Housing Grants online application



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.

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**

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

There are currently 66 Local Authority Home Loans Approved in Principle. Updated figures are outlined as follows:



Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Loan

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

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

1 LAPR Application 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 is being prepared and the Chief Executive will be issuing report on same to elected members at end of October for review and it is expected it will be on agenda for December council meeting. Membership of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee is due for ratification by the Council with first meeting planned for end of October.

Homeless Services [Homeless Action Team HAT]

There is a significant increase in the number of complex and problematic cases presenting to the Homeless Action Team in Clare. 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 both medical discharges and discharges from the APU, addiction or mental health concerns, dual diagnosis, and a further increase in the number of households presenting from the Travelling Community.

Prevention and support remain a key factor in the workings of the Homeless Action Team. Several single and household presentations worked with staff around prevention options and supports which in turn prevented the need for Emergency Accommodation and avoiding entering a homeless situation. Other individuals and families were supported in accessing Emergency Accommodation either within our services or through private establishments. However, as Emergency Services and Accommodation remains at capacity with continuous demand for additional capacity, several individuals remain overstaying with friends or family until a vacancy presents within Emergency Accommodation.

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

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 19th September 2024:

	Families	Adults	Dependents	Providers
Laurel Lodge	0	12	0	1
Laurel Lodge	0	5	0	0
Cusack Lodge	5	5	21	1
Westbrook	0	18	0	1
Ashford Court	12	17	19	1
Clann Nua	0	14	0	1
EA Families	6	11	22	4
EA Individuals	0	9	0	3
TOTAL	23	93	62	12

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 22/09/2024 to 19/09/24 the following exited from homelessness:

• Self Discharge	3
• Moved to A.H.B Housing	2
• Moved to Temp. Accommodation	0
• Admitted to hospital	0
• Excluded	1
• In Prison (on remand)	0
• Tenancy LA	1
• Moved to independent living (with supports)	3



Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr Alan O'Callaghan, along with representatives from Clare County Council, attended the Mid West Simon Community Charity Event on September 28 in Limerick. Mayor of Limerick, John Moran, was the guest speaker on the night.

Mid West Simon Community offers invaluable assistance to those impacted by homelessness in the mid west region and Clare County Council was delighted to support this vital service

Affordable Housing Schemes for County Clare

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

To date CCC had received approvals for access to the Affordable Housing Fund for the following:

- Tulla Rd Ennis – 10 units.
- Lahinch Rd Ennis – 11 units
- Shannon – 10 units (3 units allocated).

There is currently one submission under consideration by the Dept. of Housing. We are currently engaged with 4 other developers, that have expressed interest in affordable housing, for potential inclusion on the scheme.

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

Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme

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

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

Clare County Council continue to 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 have received the first ROGs (Remediation Option Grants) from the Housing Agency, and have referred these options to the relevant homeowner. Clare County Council DCB team have commenced releasing grant monies for Building Condition Assessment reports (BCA's) for eligible applicants.

Clare County Council DCB Team have an upcoming information evening in Shannon Library on the 8th of October from 6-8pm, to further assist homeowners on how to make an application to the Scheme via the online portal. These information evenings are targeted for people with limited digital resources and/or capabilities, to assist them further in making an application.

So far in 2024, Walk in clinics have been held in Kilrush, Ennistymon, Scarriff, Shannon and Ennis. 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. Those currently under construction include Scarriff, Sixmilebridge and Gort Road and these projects are continuing to progress well, with Scarriff and Sixmilebridge being 2024 deliverables.



Progress on Sixmilebridge project

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



Progress on Scarriff housing development



Progress on Gort Road housing development

Approved Housing Bodies

The Approved Housing Body sector is progressing a number of projects and housing delivery at Ennis, Quin Shannon and Tulla is expected before year end. Regular meetings are held with all AHBs to discuss progress on capital delivery and provide support in relation to operational matters.



SHIP Capital	No. approved	Current stage	Start Date	Completion Date
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.	Q1 2025	Q2 2026
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 contract signing on 9th October.	Q4 2024	Q4 2025
Shallee Drive / Cloughleigh Rd	5	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Part VIII approved	Q1 2025	Q4 2025
Subtotal	234			

Approved Housing Body Projects	No. approved	Current stage	Start Date	Completion Date
Quin, Ennis (Co-Operative Hsg. Ireland) CALF Turnkey)	36	Under construction: 20 units in Phase 1 16 units in Phase 2	Q1 2023 Q3 2023	Q4 2024 Q4 2024
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	Under construction 11 units in Phase 2 10 units in Phase 3	Q3 2023 Q1 2024	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	Q3 2024	Q3 2025
Loughville, Ennis (Tuath Housing) CALF Turnkey	48	Under construction: 16 units in Phase 1 32 units in Phase 2	Q1 2024 Q1 2024	Q4 2024 Q1 2025
Clonroad, Ennis, St. Vincent de Paul CAS Turnkey	12	Under construction	Q1 2024	Q4 2024
Bruachlan, Westbury (Cooperative Hsg. Ireland) CALF Construction	22	Planning application ongoing - at further information stage.	Q4 2024	Q4 2025
Shannon (Cluid Housing Assoc.)	5	Under construction	Q4 2023	Q4 2024
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
Subtotal	207			
Total	441			

UKRAINIAN SERVICES TEAM

The CSO figures show there were 873 Temporary Protections granted nationally in the past four weeks, the number of new arrivals remains consistent compared to the weekly figures outlined in the previous Monthly Management Report. There are currently 5,418 Ukrainian Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP's) living in County Clare, representing a decrease of 127 people in the County compared to figures released previously. There are 1,953 people accommodated in 30 multi-occupancy facilities located throughout the County - this reflects a decrease of 265 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 236 homes offered resulting in an increase of 2 properties compared to figures released previously. We currently have 10 properties offered that will be available during the month of October. To date our Matching & Relationship Manager has facilitated the accommodation of 471 people that were originally living in hotel and multi-occupancy facilities.

INTEGRATION TEAM

The Immigrant Council of Ireland hosted the National Integration Conference in the Gresham Hotel which Fiona Cahill & Padraig McMahon from the LAIT team attended.

On Wednesday 11th September, on invitation by Councilor Joe Garrihy, Fiona Cahill & Padraig McMahon from the LAIT team attended Inagh District & Anglers Club Inauguration of the Pier & Slipway which was officially opened by Roderick O'Gorman - Minister of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth.



Fiona Cahill, Brian Killoran (CEO Immigrant Council of Ireland) and Padraig McMahon – National Integration Conference.

The LAIT team co-hosted Community Information Clinics in Kilkee and Kilrush on Wednesday 4th September.



Padraig McMahon, Senator Roisin Garvey, Minister Roderick O'Gorman, and Fiona Cahill – Inagh District & Anglers Club Inauguration of the Pier & Slipway, which was officially opened by Roderick O'Gorman Minister of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth



Brendan Boyce, Fiona Cahill, Councillor Rita McInerney, and Padraig McMahon – Community Information Clinic Kilrush

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



Appointment Traffic Ambassadors

Traffic Ambassadors appointed in early July, being managed by the North Clare LEA to provide guidance to tourists on most appropriate routes to reach their destinations. The team finished the end of September and a huge amount of data was gathered by this team to further inform re traffic issues. This data is presently being analysed.

Schedule of Municipal District Works

- **Roadworks**
Drainage Works - Ennistymon & Corofin



CIS- Islandbaun



Geo Park Signage- provided at Woods Cross, Lisdoonvarna



LIS- Moughaun & Noonan



Burrenbeo Cleanup Collection



SPORTS & RECREATION



Active Ennis Leisure Complex

Gym & Pool Report

Swim Lessons Return

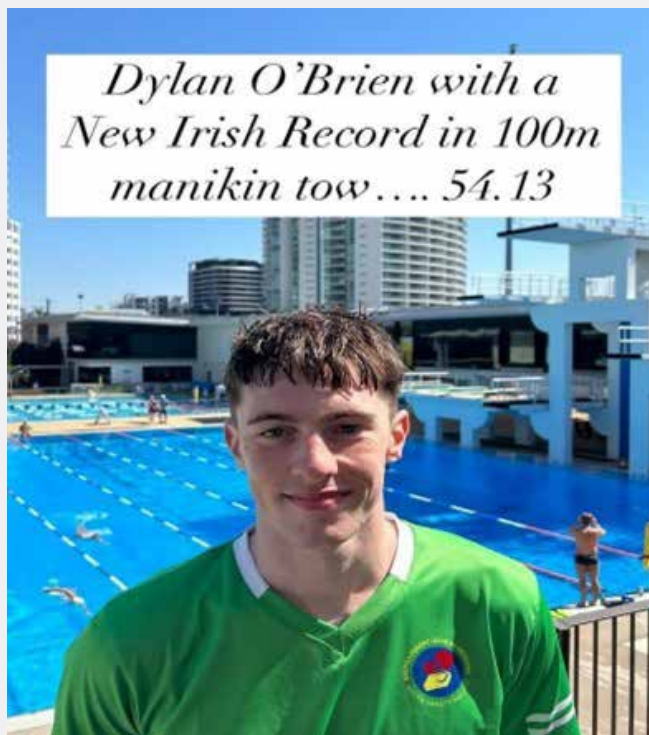
The 7/8 of September saw weekend lessons return, while weekday lessons began on Monday the 9th. We also started adult swimming lessons which began on the 12th of January. Swimming lessons are in huge demand and quickly became booked out.

The swimming lessons are tailored for children aged 4+ years old, and of all levels. Adult lessons are available to people over 16 years of age and help complete beginners and improvers learn the fundamentals of swimming.



Dylan O’Brien representing Ireland

Lifeguard Dylan O’Brien achieved a new Irish national milestone by setting a new Irish record in the 100m Manikin Tow event at the world lifesaving championships held in the Gold Coast Australia. This accomplishment highlights his prowess in lifesaving sports, a discipline that tests speed, agility and rescue skills in a simulated environment.




Shannon Sharks’ Underwater Hockey.

The Shannon Shark’s Underwater Hockey Club holds sessions in our facility every Saturday from 8pm to 8.45pm. Underwater hockey is a good choice for individuals seeking a new recreational activity and social outlet.


The club provides an opportunity for both beginners and experienced players to engage at an affordable price, creating an inclusive environment for physical activity.

Shannon Sharks Underwater Hockey Club






Interested in starting a new hobby in 2024?

Not sure if it's for you? Scan the QR code



Join us on Saturdays
 Price: €10 per session
 Time: 20:00-20:45
 Location: Active Ennis Leisure Centre

Footfall Report Active Ennis Leisure Complex

Total Footfall for August was 13,709. The highest total recorded footfall was on Tuesday August 13th. The lowest recorded Footfall was on Sunday August 11th. The overall lower footfall in August may be explained by not having any lessons except for intensive swim weeks which only ran for the first 2 weeks of August, and it being holiday season regular customers going abroad.

Lees Road

16,731 vehicles entered the Lee's Road Park in June, this was an average of 557 vehicles per day. Lee's Road also held the County Community Games finals, this was a successful and busy event with approximately 2,000 people attending. 17,322 vehicles entered the Lee Road Park in July, this was an average of 558 vehicles per day.

Tim Smythe Park

There was a new picnic table and seating installed in north-east corner of Active Ennis Tim Smythe Park courtesy of funding from Ennis Tidy Towns. Bookings for the park were up 57.1% on June 23rd compared to May and the Active Hours were up 51.3% on June 23rd compared to May.

www.activeennis.ie www.activekilrush.ie

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

The Draft Clare Sports Plan has been developed and will be available for Stakeholder consultation on the 15th October prior to being finalised and placed for Public Consultation on our "Have Your Say" platform for 4 weeks from November 1st where the public can further inform the plans' development.



General Updates

- Conor and Eimear attended the Community Information Clinic in Kilkee and
- Kilrush, organised by CLDC on Sept 4th
- The Clare LSP team are getting ready for European Week of Sport (EWOS) which is taking place Sept 23rd – 30th.

Schools & Youth

- Borrowing of playground markings and sportshall athletics packs by primary schools has resumed
- We delivered teen girls programmes throughout the summer across the county as part of Sport Ireland's HER Moves initiative
- Our teen girl's yoga programme, in conjunction with Namaste Youth Yoga, Ennis, concluded on August 30th. 8 teen girls took part in this programme
- Get Going Get Rowing began in Saint Micheal's Community College Kilmihil on Monday Sept 16th
- Our 6-week post-primary Sportshall Athletics programme will be launched in Mary Immaculate College, Lisdoonvarna on Thursday Sept 19th
- Get Going Get Rowing will also begin in St. Patrick's Comprehensive School, Shannon on Friday Sept 20th

Education & Training

- Season of Respect is also due to commence this month with tutor training for members of the Clare Sports Partnership and primary schools' programmes taking place throughout September and October
- There will also be Level 1 and Level 2 education courses for clubs organised
- The final sports first aid course of this year took place on Saturday Sept 14th, in Kilrush and was very well attended
- Safeguarding have resumed after the summer. A full list of our upcoming courses from September - December 2024 is available on our website

Sports Inclusion

1. Inclusive gymnastics with Ennis Gymnastics Club has changed to Monday / Tuesday evenings. There are 70 children who attend these sessions
2. Eire Og / Corofin GAA and Wolfe Tones GAA All-stars Inclusive Clubs are now running outdoor sessions for over 40 children with a disability
3. Eire Og All- Stars are a National Finalist in the National Lottery Good Causes Awards that will take place in October
4. Clare comets basketball all- stars continue to run their indoor sessions on Saturdays in Ennis National School
5. Both Derg AC (Saturday mornings) and Tulla AC (Thursday evenings) continue to run sessions for over 40 children with a disability
6. West Coast Surf Club are running surfing sessions in

Lahinch with 24 children with autism taking part. There are a few sessions left before seasons end.

7. Ennis Eagles rugby (Ennis Rugby club) have completed a 4-week pilot programme for children with a disability
8. Our inclusive summer camps concluded with our FAI Down Syndrome camp from August 20th – 22nd at Bridge United, Sixmilebridge with 24 children taking part. Throughout the summer we had 125 children take part in our inclusive summer camp programme

Older Adults

9. 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
10. An activator pole walking programme with Kilrush Family Resource Centre has commenced with 8 participants

Active Communities

- Following on from our successful Women in Sport Couch to 5km in Whitegate, the ladies' group have secured Healthy Ireland funding to continue training with over forty ladies engaging in running/resistance training around the GAA club
- Her Moves teen girls beach volleyball and surfing event took place in Lahinch on Monday Aug 19th
- There are now four 6-week ladies beginner swim lessons starting this week. The lessons are taking place in Shannon, Ennis, Lahinch and Kilkee. There are almost 50 participants registered to take part
- There are also several clubs looking to run ladies couch to 5k programmes and we will hopefully be able to help support them in this
- Teen girls' programmes will also be up and running in several secondary schools throughout the county with the Her Moves programmes and so far will include activities such as aerial dance and pottery
- The last 2 men on the move programmes for this year are due to start this week in Muscle and Motion, Ennis and Lahinch Leisure Centre
- In partnership with Kilrush RFC, the recent tag rugby programme targeting teenage girls aged 13 and up finished up on Thursday 5th of September
- In partnership with K Fitt Kilrush, we have launched a Strength & Conditioning Programme for Teen Girls which will commence on the 24th of September
- To celebrate Happy Hiking Day, which is happening during EWOS, we are organising a hiking event at Moylussa, Killaloe on Saturday Sept 28th
- To celebrate EWOS, we are organising a Street Soccer Tournament at the Shannon Swimming and Leisure Centre for children aged 10 to 15years, on Sept 29th. This event is in partnership with the FAI
- Eimear has been actively building and strengthening

connections with key stakeholders in both Shannon and Kilrush sports hubs

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

Club Development

- The 2024 small club grant scheme is now closed. 68 different clubs, from 21 different sports will receive a grant. Awaiting sign off from CSP board
- There is a club swap shop organised for October 5th as part of European week of Sustainable goals. This will be an event where club members are encouraged to swap club gear in an effort to make the club clothing model more sustainable and to reduce waste. All participating clubs will be in with a chance of winning a €100 voucher for Central Sports, Kilrush

Minority Communities

- Eimear attended a Traveller Interagency Meeting on Wednesday 11th of September
- Eimear also met with Shannon Family Resource centre to explore potential future programs with youths and ethnic minority groups
- The membership bursary has been revised and reopened. It is for youths between the ages of 8 – 21 years. It will be accessed on a case-by-case basis. The aim is to link with clubs for a sustainable model

ESF+ Sport4Empowerment Programme

- Pilot with Swim Ireland: The 7 Traveller men completed the initial lessons, mixed ability within the group, a further 4 lessons is required to bring 3 up to an equal standard. Ultimate aim is to bring the group from not being able to swim to swim coaches. All have continued thus far, and we are now exploring if this has the potential for a Social Enterprise within the group
- Engaged with Golf Ireland and a family support worker in Ennistymon FRC regarding Golf training for a group of Traveller men. Pilot has been developed and this specific programme will be hopefully running towards the end of September. Ultimately the potential of caddying as an employment pathway will be explored
- 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
- 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 will do his Youth Reach work experience with Clare Sports Partnership

- Have held further one to one discussion with International Protection Applicants in Ennis, Shannon, Miltown and Lisdoonvarna
- Liaising with GAA Games to develop an adult introduction to GAA aimed at International Protection Applicants. Ultimate aim is to create a football team comprised of 'New Communities', with an exhibition game in Cusack Park
- Further meetings probation services, Speire Nua, most recently with Prison Service regarding individuals that have interacted with the criminal justice service and initiatives that we could pilot in Clare as a transition post jail
- Liaising with Clare Traveller CSP to do 'walkability audits' from traveller specific accommodation using the National Roads Authority templates
- 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. Two clients have been referred and met so far

Outdoor Recreation

- Jess O'Keeffe our Outdoor Recreation Officer (ORO) has met with 10 outdoor activity providers 1 on 1 to explore their opportunities and challenges and give them time to prepare for the CORP consultation
- The ORO has consulted with the local sports plan on the Outdoor Recreation draft actions and links to the upcoming CORP
- The CORC met in early September.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

5th Annual Michael Cusack Day



The 5th Annual Michael Cusack Day was held on Sunday 22nd September at the Michael Cusack Heritage Centre where Michael Cusack was born in the heart of the Burren on September 20, 1847. The event, which took place just weeks before the 140th anniversary of the Gaelic Athletic Association, featured hurley

making demonstrations by Inagh-based Macóda hurleys and live music from the children of Carron National School. Clare County Council's Elected Members were each presented with a Clare GAA Michael Cusack commemorative jersey.

Vandeleur Walled Garden & Visitor Centre

Vandeleur Walled Garden & Visitor Centre Harvest Day celebrated Clare's rural traditions and craft producers on Sunday (September 8th). A range of activities, demonstrations and events such as a local producers market, demonstrations of traditional skills, a group artist exhibition and a local produce competition were planned for the family day out.

Visitors were able to witness local craftspeople at work including Deirdre Hetherington of West Clare Willow as she carries on the time-honoured tradition of basket making, wool craft and knitting demonstrations with Valerie Leonard from the Loop Head Alpacas, a metalwork demonstration by Blacksmith Jamie Smith of Triscele Forge, and forging with Paddy Murray of Kilkee Forge. The Bean an Tí demonstrated the art of butter making, while there was Aran Knitting, Weaving, Crochet, Needle Felting, Wool Crafts and Wood Turning.

Within the Victorian-era glasshouse of Vandeleur Walled

Garden, there was a local produce competition in a range of categories including Funniest Shaped Three Carrots, and the Best Loaf of Brown Bread, Vase of Flowers, Six Onions, Six Potatoes and Four Sods of Turf.



Among the other events that took place was Foraging with local Homeopath and Herbalist Suzanne Hammond in the woods around Vandeleur Walled Garden. Meanwhile, a group artist exhibition with Delaney Davis, Ailish Malone and Hazel Murray ran throughout the weekend from Friday 6th September to Sunday 8th September.

Loop Head Lighthouse



On the 6th September we were delighted to host our first official wedding ceremony at Loop Head Lighthouse when humanist celebrant Margaret Gammell officiated at the wedding of Sarah Carr to Darragh Enright. There were around 60 of their closest friends and family in attendance at the open air event on the lawn in front of the tower.

The groom and his party had stayed the previous 2 nights in the newly refurbished Loop Head Lighthouse Attendant's Cottage while the bride and her group had stayed in the neighbouring Landmark Trust House. The couple were blessed with the weather and the ceremony was a true celebration of love. The Clare Champion covered this event and we hope that it is the first of many that we host at the Lighthouse.

Traditional Harvest Day 2024 at Bunratty Castle and Folk Park



Ireland's largest private collection of vintage machinery was on display throughout Bunratty Castle and Folk Park on Sunday, September 22nd at the attraction's 'Traditional Harvest Day'.

The Talbot Collection have been bequeathed to the tourist attraction for permanent display throughout the 26-acre folk park and features more than 50 items of machinery from ploughs to hay rakes and from traditional threshing machines to Turnip and Mangel Seeders.

Enthusiasts from the local Irish Vintage and Engine Tractor Association were also on site on the day to speak about the evolution of some of the other well-known items of vintage farm machinery on display, including tractors and stationary engines.

Rural Irish life and traditions from over a century ago were also showcased as part of Bunratty's 'Traditional Harvest Day', and featured craft demonstrations, and dancers, musicians and performers from across the Banner County.

Entertainment was provided on the day from Sean Nós Singer MacDara Ó Conaola, the Mary Liddy School of Music from Newmarket on Fergus, the Helen Hehir School of Dance, and resident musicians James Anglim and Michael Grogan, while resident Seanchaí Mike 'Mickey Joe' Flynn regaled stories of tales of bygone days and traditional ways in Corry's Pub on the Village Street.

Inis Cealtra / Holy Island



Work is progressing well at the Rectory. The tender for the fit out of the visitor interpretation centre is currently underway and the successful contractor will be announced in the coming weeks. The building will be ready for fit out in parallel with appointment of the fit-out contractors in Q4 2024. Preliminary ground works have also commenced.

Meanwhile the Part 10 An Bord Pleanála Planning Application is almost complete, and it is anticipated that it will be submitted in Q4 2024. Enormous consideration was given to the sensitivity of Holy Island and its surroundings above and below water. Comprehensive underwater surveys were conducted to ascertain a suitable landing point on the island and navigation routes identifying key archeological and environmental considerations to inform the EIAR as part of the An Bord Pleanála Application.

Ireland AM broadcast live from Craggaunowen



Shannon Heritage / Clare Tourism East attraction, Craggaunowen, was thrilled to host a live broadcast of Virgin Media One's Ireland AM this September.

The show provided a fantastic opportunity to highlight the attraction and the beautiful East Clare region to a national audience.

While onsite, presenter, Deric Haritgan witnessed spinning in the castle, stepped back into bronze age times at the Crannóg and witnessed first hand the ancient crafts, customs and traditions practiced and preserved daily at this enchanting attraction.

Well done to Craggaunowen Site Manager, Pauline Lenihan and the amazing team of characters and craftspeople who bring this interactive and educational attraction to life on a daily basis.

Craggaunowen's Hosts Inaugural Concert Series



The walls of the 16th century Craggaunowen Castle reverberate to the sound of medieval and traditional Irish music on Friday 23rd August as the first in a series of concerts was hosted at the County Clare visitor attraction.

The first ever concert series to be held at Craggaunowen coincided with National Heritage Week, which features a range of other events at the site including demonstrations of the crafts and traditions of old, including spinning and weaving, blacksmithing, log splitting, bread and butter making, candle making, wool dyeing and bagpipe playing.

Resident musician Arno Kilhoffer got the evening's entertainment underway by performing medieval era music through the Irish bouzouki, bagpipes and low whistle, while singer Annika Hammar performed timeless songs from the 16th century.

The second half of the concert featured the sounds of traditional Irish music with Jennifer Lenihan and Mark Donnellan, two esteemed musicians from the legendary Tulla Céilí Band, who will be accompanied by guitarist and singer Michael Landers.

Clare Tourism East attend France's largest Travel trade Exhibition



Clare Tourism East was delighted to attend IFTM Top Resa Travel and Trade Fair in Paris this month.

This premier travel trade exhibition in France provided a unique opportunity to showcase the stunning attractions of Shannon Heritage / Clare Tourism East to key French tour operators, travel agents, and media. By connecting with industry professionals, we promoted our region as a must-visit destination for French travellers.

IFTM (International French Travel Market) Travel and Tourism Show, the largest travel trade exhibition in France, typically attracting around 30,000 visitors – including influential tour operators and travel agents, as well as business events decision-makers and leading French travel journalists.

The three-day event provides a valuable opportunity for the participating companies from Ireland to meet, and do business with, key players in the French travel trade for 2025 and beyond. Around 675 commercial meetings will be conducted on the Ireland stand this week.

Clare Tourism Attractions showcased at Tourism Ireland’s inaugural Austrian / Swiss Roadshow



Clare Tourism East, were delighted to partake in Tourism Ireland’s inaugural Austrian/Swiss Roadshow. Taking in the cities of Vienna, Linz, Zurich and Lausanne, Clare Tourism East, joined by seven other prominent Irish tourism businesses, partook in a series of one-to-one meetings and networking sessions which provided valuable opportunities to showcase and sell their products and services, as the Austrian and Swiss travel trade begin planning for 2025 and beyond.

Craggaunowen takes centre stage in Tourism Ireland’s 2024 “Home of Halloween” Campaign



Shannon Heritage / Clare Tourism East are thrilled to have Craggaunowen featured as part of Tourism Ireland's 2024 "Home of Halloween" Global Advertising Campaign. The campaign which was launched across a mix of TV, cinema and digital channels in 12 key tourism markets including Britain, the United States, Canada, Australia, Germany, France, Spain, Italy,

Netherlands, Nordics, Austria and Switzerland, has provided global exposure for this County Clare visitor experience. The campaign launches with a 60-second film which is filmed partly in black and white – to bring a sense of history and distinctiveness and to showcase Ireland in a way that completely stands out from other destinations.

To view the advertising campaign in full visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DmFQ1R2KVS4>

US and Canada Agents educated on the very best of Clare’s Visitor Experiences



Pictured below: Sharon Malone Assistant Sales & Marketing Manager Clare Tourism West and Northwest with Adrienne O'Flynn Sales & Marketing Manager Clare Tourism East.

Clare Tourism East was delighted to attend the Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland led US and Canada Sales Advisors Workshop in Dublin. This event brought together tourism and travel trade advisors from across the US and Canada and provided the opportunity for us to showcase our portfolio of visitor experiences to these key overseas markets.

With professionals specialising in leisure, luxury and the incentive travel, discussions were held in relation to enhancements made to our well established visitor experiences such as Bunratty Castle and Folk Park and Craggaunowen, as well as the new developments at Knappogue Castle and soon to be launched, Inis Cealtra, also Loophead, Vandeleur Walled Gardens and Cliffs of Moher.

Burren & Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark



https://www.instagram.com/reel/C_Gr4COMHd7/?igsh=MmR3Z3AwbXY2a2Vv

The Caherconnell Furnace Festival, supported by The Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark and the Irish Iron Heritage Foundation, received unprecedented coverage this year thanks to the Instagram video posted by Saulforged, our very own talented blacksmith from Mountshannon. The video has now been viewed more than 1 million times and showcases the variety of activities that took place over the weekend at Caherconnell Fort to a whole new audience, which should increase interest for next year's event, Caherconnell Fort and the county as a whole.

ITN Business: "Transformational Travel" Programme: Clare's Sustainability Journey



In line with the objectives set out in the Clare Tourism Strategy 2030 – Guiding our Journey to a Vibrant New Future in Tourism – work is continuing to ensure Global Sustainable Tourism Council certification for Clare as a destination. This process supports transparent and evidence-based decision making by responding to data collected from residents, businesses, and visitors. This will help to continue to develop Clare as a destination that supports local communities and businesses, gives visitors great experiences and manages our social, cultural, economic, and environmental future.

This journey will be featured as part of an ITN business digital documentary that will go live on World Tourism Day, 27th September 2024. It is anticipated that the certification process will be achieved by year end, 2024.



Phoenix

Based on the long-standing Ennis – Phoenix 'Sister Cities' relationship, a delegation went to Phoenix, Arizona in September 2024 and held meaningful engagements and shared learnings with the Arizona Office of Tourism and Visit Phoenix company.

Detailed promotional presentations were delivered to the American Society of Travel Advisors (ASTA) Arizona Chapter, with a dedicated Q&A forum held on how to facilitate itineraries for future visits to Clare.



Highly engaging meetings were also held with the Irish Cultural Centre and Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix to discuss future potential musical exchanges between both parties.

An Explore County Clare Event and Presentation was also delivered to a large audience, predominantly the Irish diaspora and / or the fully independent traveller market at the Irish Cultural Centre in Phoenix.

Funday Sunday Offers & Prizes

Clare Funday Sundays Offers for Sundays, September 15 or 22

SPECIAL OFFER
Take a Walk with an Alpaca for only €10.00

SPECIAL OFFER
Kids go Free to Vandeleur Walled Garden & Visitor Centre

SPECIAL OFFER
Special €20 Family Admission to Loop Head Lighthouse

Win!
Win a 12-Month Family Pass to Vandeleur Walled Garden & Visitor Centre

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

Cliffs of Moher Opening Hours



The Cliffs of Moher Experience are open daily from 8am – 7pm in September and October. We advise booking online for the best rates. Visit in the morning or evening for a more pleasant and peaceful experience. Sunrise and sunset visits are extremely special and memorable.

Limerick Travel Group Visit to the Cliffs of Moher Experience

The Cliffs of Moher Team We were delighted to welcome some of the US & Canadian agents from Tourism Ireland's event in Dublin on Tuesday, 24th of September to the Cliffs of Moher Experience. The visitors enjoyed a meet and greet on site by the operations team before exploring the safe paved pathways at the Cliffs.



The Craft & Gift Store new local supplier spotlight area!



Within the Cliffs of Moher Experience Visitor Centre, the Craft and Gift store offer a wide range of exceptional products to visitors. Located in the lobby area of the Visitor Centre, a new supplier spotlight area has been opened by the Craft & Gift Store. This area features multiple local suppliers products, including The Clare Jam Company, Ekotree Knitwear, Bunratty Meade, Wilde Irish Chocolate, The Moher Soap Co and much more.

Irish Tourism Industry Confederation – Tourism Conference 24

Members of the Cliffs of Moher Experience team were delighted to attend the Irish Tourism Industry Confederation – ITIC Tourism Conference 24 in Dublin Royal Convention Centre on Wednesday, September 25th. Exploring the theme of 'responsible ambition', there were numerous insightful discussions with brilliant speakers throughout the day.

Western Loop Competition Winner

The Cliffs of Moher Experience are delighted to announce that the winner of our Western Loop Giveaway competition is Orlaith Kearney. Congratulations Orlaith, we hope that you enjoy your adventure in County Clare. The prize giveaway includes: A two-night stay in the newly renovated Loop Head Lighthouse Attendants Cottage, a boat trip for two with Scattery Island Tours, admission and lunch for two at Vandeleur Walled Garden & Visitor Centre, evening admission for two to the Cliffs of Moher Experience, dinner for two at The Long Dock in Carrigaholt and Brunch for two at the Armada Hotel Spanish Point.

WEST CLARE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT - KILRUSH LEA

Town Hall, Kilrush – Makeover



The Town Hall, Kilrush has undergone a vibrant makeover in September 2024. The newly painted exterior reflects our dedication to preserving the town’s heritage and ensuring the Town Hall is highlighted as a focal point of our community. Clare County Council will continue to work in partnership with Kilrush Tidy Town’s on beautifying The Town Hall and surrounding streetscapes by creating a welcoming environment for all.

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



West Clare MD has completed two road surface overlays, one in Kilmihil and one in Ballynacally.



West Clare MD commenced 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.



A section of public footpath that had separated from the wall at Marine Parade, Kilkee was recently repaired.



Recruitment Competitions September

Eligibility Exercises & Desktop Shortlisting

- Executive Architectural Conservation Officer
- Library Assistant
- Executive Planner
- Assistant Planner
- Graduate Planner
- Internal Auditor
- Traveller Liaison Officer
- Community Safety Coordinator in Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP)
- Is Analyst Developer (Networks) ICT Service Desk & Support

Interviews

- Canteen Attendant
- Library Assistant
- A/Director of Services

The following competitions were advertised:

- Energy Officer
- School Warden Sporadic Cover Panel - Ennis MD, Shannon MD & West Clare MD - Kilrush
- Business Advisor, Local Enterprise Office
- Retained Part-time Firefighters - Ennis, Kilrush, Kilkee & Killaloe

TRAINING PROGRAMMES / WEBINARS / CONFERENCES/ INFORMATION SESSIONS SEPTEMBER

- 1-Day ISO 45001 Implementation Training Course
- Clerical Officer - Interview Skills
- Half-Day Introductory Irish Language Workshop
- Junior Achievement Recognition Event & Information Session
- Microsoft Excel Courses
- School Warden Training

Essential Skillz on-line Courses:

- Being an Active Listener
- Health & Safety Induction
- Providing Great Customer Service
- Slips Trips & Falls

Health & Safety:

- 2-Day PSDP Project Supervisor Design Process
- 4-Day SH&E Safety Health & Environment for Construction Site Managers
- Abrasive Wheels
- Safe Use of Pesticides
- Site Dumper Assessment Course

Junior Achievement Programme:

Throughout the 2023/2024 school year, 16 volunteers from Clare County Council participated in the JA programme in 7 schools around the county. A recognition event was held in September to acknowledge those who took part.



Employee Wellbeing

In September the Wellbeing Hub focus was Mental Health.

A Financial Wellbeing Webinar was provided to staff regarding Savings & Investments.

Clare County Council raised the Pride flag at the local authority's headquarters at Áras Contae an Chláir, on September 19th ahead of Clare's Pride weekend, organised by Quare Clare. The flag highlighted the local authority's commitment to supporting the LGBTQIA+ community in the council and across the county.

Unions

The Human Resources Department engages with Unions on various matters.



Excellence through People Certification

Clare County Council is the first Local Authority in Ireland to be awarded Platinum for Excellence Through People (ETP) by the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI).

The ETP specification provides a business improvement model for organisations to enhance performance and realise strategies through the management and development of its people.



INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

ICT Management Report

Clare County Council ICT operations department is part of the Finance and Support Services Directorate. ICT operations provide Directorates, Municipal Districts, Departments, and over six hundred and fifty users with ICT services and support. Services include ICT Infrastructure, ICT Applications, Enterprise Software Solutions, Graphical Information Systems (GIS), Web Services, information security, remote working solutions, and support for workers on the move.

Lifeguards Project

ICT, in collaboration with the Innovation team and the Environment section, secured innovation funding to progress lifeguard operations and migrate the lifeguard's administration from paper to digital.

The project team successfully implemented a secure online system preferred by lifeguards over the old paper forms. This new system has eliminated the need for cumbersome paperwork, streamlined record-keeping, and provided immediate access to essential data, drastically reducing the time needed to generate reports. Additionally, this initiative is not only a technological success but also an environmental one, as it significantly reduces the travel needs of lifeguard management team, contributing to a greener future for all.

In recognition of the improvements the lifeguard project has delivered, the project is shortlisted for four public sector digital transformation awards in the following categories

- **Digital Skills or Talent Initiative of the Year Award**
- **Outstanding Contribution to Planet Earth Award**
- **Digital Leader of the Year in Public Sector Individual Award**
- **Rising IT Star in the Public Sector Award**
- **Best of Luck to the nominees in this month's awards**

Housing Grants

The ICT department, in collaboration with the Housing section, has developed and tested an online grants platform. Aligned with the national strategy to provide services online, Clare residence can now apply for the Older People Grant, the Adaptation Grant for People with Disabilities, and the Mobility Aids Grant online. Applicants may still use the paper form if they prefer. The new grants system offers the housing team a streamlined approval and validation process, reducing paper dependence and providing a visual representation of each application's status to ensure applications are processed efficiently

Access to HR system

The ICT and HR departments have worked together to improve HR systems by simplifying the login process. This update makes access easier for all Clare County Council employees and significantly decreases the need for HR assistance with account management. This development not only improves efficiency and enhances security but also provides a more user-friendly experience for employees.

PROCUREMENT



Green Public Procurement Strategy

An objective in the Clare Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 was for Clare County Council to 'Develop a Green Public Procurement (GPP) Strategy to ensure GPP is mainstreamed through all sections of Clare County Council'. Accordingly, the Clare County Council Green Public Procurement Strategy was adopted in July 2024 by the Council's Management Team and was recently launched by Peter Williams (Procurement), Morgan Lahiffe (Climate Change) and Caroline O' Connor (Finance) .

The Procurement team, in conjunction with the Climate Action team and various other stakeholders across the Council developed the Green Public Procurement (GPP) Strategy which reflects the Government's GPP strategy and EU direction in regard to GPP/in regard to how tenders can incorporate green/sustainable specifications, green/sustainable award criteria etc. The Green Public Procurement Strategy therefore pulls together the 'Green' tendering requirements from other sources.

This means that where Clare County Council has a tender requirement in the future (contract value over €50k for goods

and services / over €200k for works) , there will be a requirement to incorporate green/sustainable specifications and/or green/sustainable award criteria etc. in to the Tender documents in accordance with the GPP Strategy/the Government's GPP strategy.

Recent Tenders Published:

The following Clare County Council tender competitions were published on eTenders in the period from 28th August to 24th September inclusive:

Tender Name	RFT ID	Response deadline	Procedure
Interpretive Fit-Out of Old Rectory Building - Inis Cealtra	4112692	30/10/2024 13:00:00	Restricted
Provision of AV content for The Rectory, Mountshannon	4366396	29/10/2024 13:00:00	Open
N68 Fencing Retrofit Contract 2024	4258848	18/09/2024 12:00:00	Open



PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Town Centre First

New Kilrush Town Team and Kilrush Town Centre First Plan

A meeting to establish a new Town Team was held on 16th September in Kilrush Town Hall. There was a great turnout with lots of interest in the community in relation to building a strong Town Team. Further meetings are scheduled for October and November to nominate various roles including Chairperson.

The process to prepare a Town Centre First Plan for Kilrush will commence in October and a consultant has been appointed to prepare a Masterplan. There will be strong input from a newly formed Town Team and the wider public. A full programme of public consultation will be rolled out over the next 12 months.



Meeting of emerging Kilrush Town Team in Kilrush Town Hall

Lisdoonvarna Town Team meeting

The Town Centre First Department in conjunction with the Municipal Districts and Rural Development staff hosted a meeting to set up a Town Team on 1st October in The Pavilion in Lisdoonvarna. A series of meetings to agree nominations for a new Town Team executive will take place in October and November.

As part of this meeting, a presentation was given by Dr. Neil Galway from Queen's University on the Collaborative Town Centre Health Check that took place in July. It provided useful insights into the health and perception of the town by the community. There was good discussion and engagement with the Town Team in relation to its findings.



Town Centre Health Check consultation in Lisdoonvarna.
L-R Marie Lynch, Town Centre First Department, Joan Tarmey, Town Regeneration Officer (Acting), Cllr. Joe Garrihy and Niamh Wiley, Rural Community Development Officer.

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 under-utilised heritage/historic building in Ennis town centre that is publicly-owned, transforming it for community use.

A stakeholder engagement event was held on 23rd September where representatives provided useful feedback to the Design Team.



As part of the process, an Integrated Urban Strategy focusing on heritage properties is to be 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.

deliver on policies set out in the National Planning Framework and Southern Regional Spatial Economic Strategy.



THRIVE Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme supports local authorities across the country and their citizens to regenerate town centres by transforming publicly-owned vacant, under-utilised or derelict heritage buildings within key town centres through renovation, renewal, and adaptive reuse. It will

In County Clare, THRIVE funding provides an opportunity to return one vacant heritage building back into use in Ennis Town Centre, whilst addressing community needs. Further stakeholder and citizen engagement will take place on 21st October in the Civic Room, Buttermarket, Ennis.

FORWARD PLANNING

One Shannon Hub

The multi directorate project delivery team are now in the final stage of project development for this concept design stage of the One Shannon Hub project. The project to date has been funded in part by Urban Regeneration and Development funding and it is anticipated that the Urban Regeneration Development Fund team from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage will visit Clare in the coming weeks. This visit will provide an opportunity for the delivery team to present the project ahead of possible future funding calls.



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.

Ennistymon Public Realm Improvement works - Part VIII.

The project has now progressed to tender stage where Consultants are preparing detailed design and tender documents for publishing on E-Tenders.

Strategic Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) for the Shannon Estuary

A key Action arising from the publication of the Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce Report was to re-establish the SIFP Steering Group which published the Plan for the Shannon Estuary in 2013.

The group met in early September to discuss the commencement

Re-establishment of Shannon Estuary Integrated Framework Planning Working Group		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-establishment and resourcing of the Shannon Estuary Strategic Integrated Framework Plan Steering Committee to recommence preparatory planning and environmental activities for current and potential new SDLs, with adequate support and centrally resourced. 	SIFP Lead Partners, DHLGH	Q3, 2023

of preparatory environmental data collection in line with the specific action from the Taskforce Report relating to the Shannon Estuary. A decision was made at this meeting to re-convene the Environmental Sub-Group and to seek nominations from the Steering Group. The Environmental Sub-Group will be chaired by Clare County Council which will commence with 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.

CONSERVATION AND BUILT HERITAGE

Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2025 (BHIS)

The 2025 Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) was announced by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in July 2024. The closing date for applications to Clare County Council was 27th September. Applications for the scheme are currently being assessed and a recommendation will be made to the Department on projects to be funded by 5th December. Applicants will be notified in January 2025 if their project will receive funding under the scheme.

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	September 2024 up to & including 30/09/2024	Total (Valid) Year to date 2024
No. of Section 57 Declaration Requests received	3	22

HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY

National Hedgerow Week 2024

To celebrate National Hedgerow Week 2024 (30th August - Friday, 6th September), Clare County Council in conjunction with Hedgerows Ireland and Teagasc hosted a hedgerow workshop on best practices around hedgerow management and hedge laying at Irish Seed Savers headquarters. Talks were given by Clare County Council's Biodiversity Officer, Hedgerows Ireland Katie Smirnova and Catherine Keena of Teagasc. Eamon McLoughlin of Hedgerows Ireland demonstrated hedge laying techniques. Eamon talked about the cost savings using hedge laying as stock proof alternatives to fencing. The workshop was well attended with representatives of the IFA, Acres Munster/South Connacht, Woodland League, Burrenbeo (Hare's Corner Team), CELT in attendance. Hedgerows are vital ecological corridors in our landscape which offer a lifeline for the movement of wildlife. Hedge-rows act as corridors to connect ecological hotspots such as woodlands and peatlands for wildlife. The event was funded through Clare County Councils Biodiversity Office.



Eamon McLoughlin of Hedgerows Ireland demonstrates hedge laying techniques.



Organisations from IFA, Acres Munster/South Connacht, Woodland League, Burrenbeo (Hare's corner) and CELT were in attendance.

Hedgerow and Invasive Species Training Workshop

Over the summer, the Council hosted a two-day workshop on hedgerow management and invasive species identification and biosecurity with general operative staff in East Clare and West Clare Municipal Districts. Invasive species specialist Will Earle of INVAS Biosecurity gave a talk and practical demonstration of high impact invasive species found in County Clare and the biosecurity and best practice measures operatives can take to stop and limit the spread of invasive species. Will Earle also covered the economic costs of invasive species, legislative requirements and the importance of early stage prevention. Clare County Council's Biodiversity Officer gave a talk on hedgerow management and the importance of hedgerows as ecological corridors for wildlife (lesser horseshoe bat and other bat species, birds, small mammals) and best practices in relation to trimming of hedgerows such as adopting an 'A-shape' structure, light trimming to protect the structure of the hedgerow, avoiding the bird nesting season and best practices for managing vegetation for sight lines to protect biodiversity, the role of hedgerows and scoring cards for agri-enviro schemes, etc. The events were well attended. It is hoped to carry out a demonstration site day on best practices around hedgerow management in 2025 with external contractors. The event was organised by the Biodiversity Officer in conjunction with the Area Office Engineers.



Hedgerow and Invasive species training day with East Clare operatives with Will Earle of INVAS.

Community Foundation Ireland Biodiversity Fund 2024

The Community Foundation Ireland Biodiversity Fund is now open for applications and closes on the 25th of October 2024. Clare County Council's Biodiversity Officer has been linking in with communities to apply for funding to prepare a Community Biodiversity Action Plan or implement biodiversity actions for existing Community Biodiversity Action Plan. Last year Clare communities were awarded the highest number of projects across the country through this fund (11 projects in total). For those starting out on embarking on a Community Biodiversity Action Plan, the Community Foundation Ireland have a grant to engage an ecologist and develop a Community Biodiversity Action Plan (CBAP) for their local area. Three levels of grant funding are offered:

- **Strand 1:** Grants of up to €5,000 for community groups to work with an ecologist to classify their local habitats, assess their condition and extent, map them, and define a suite of actions to enhance biodiversity.
- **Strand 2:** Grants of up to €8,000 for community groups who carry out the work outlined in Strand 1 in collaboration with one or two land managers/owners and particularly farmers, to classify habitats at landscape scale with a focus on field boundaries (hedgerows, treelines and stone walls), assess their condition and extent, map them and define a suite of actions to enhance biodiversity.
- **Strand 3:** Grants of up to €11,000 for community groups who carry out the work outlined in Strand 1 in collaboration with three to five land managers/owners and particularly farmers, to classify habitats at landscape scale with a focus on field boundaries (hedgerows, treelines and stone walls), assess their condition and extent, map them and define a suite of actions to enhance biodiversity.

For those who already have a Community Biodiversity Action Plan prepared from previous funding, an application can be made to implement recommendations/actions for biodiversity contained within existing plans. This year any organisation with a Community Biodiversity Action Plan can apply for grants of up to €12,000. Full details are available to view at the Community Foundation Ireland's website <https://www.communityfoundation.ie/apply-for-funding/>

Heritage Council Biodiversity Officer Network Presentation

In September 2024, Clare County Council's Biodiversity Officer gave a presentation along with the Bishop of Kilmore Martin Hayes on the 'Return to Nature Clare Church Biodiversity Project' to the Biodiversity Officer Network and the Heritage Council in Galway. The Heritage Council is keen to roll the project out in other counties to carry out biodiversity actions on church grounds which links communities and parish priests through the role of the local authority biodiversity officer. There was significant interest among attendees to follow Clare County Council's lead and work with parishes that are central to community life. A workshop on the initiative will be hosted by the Laudato Si Working Group in Mallow, Cork scheduled for the 25th of January to encourage uptake of the project across the country.



Hedgerow and Invasive species training day with West Clare operatives with Will Earle of INVAS and Clare County Council's Biodiversity Officer.



Bishop of Kilmore Martin Hayes and Clare County Council's Biodiversity Officer Barry O'Loughlin giving presentations to the Heritage Council's Biodiversity Officer Network.

Return To Nature Church Biodiversity Project

The Return to Nature Clare Church Biodiversity Project has attracted significant interest as the first initiative of its kind on a large scale, working with both the church and wider communities to pro-mote biodiversity enhancement actions on church grounds and linking in with neighbouring farmers and landowners. This Clare County Council led initiative has gained national media coverage featuring in the Irish Independent, Irish Examiner and Agriland in addition to featuring in local print media and local radio (Clare Echo, Clare Champion, Clare Herald and Clare FM). The project has partnered with 12 churches and community groups across the county to promote biodiversity action at a local level.



DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The table below shows the number of planning applications processed during the month of September, together with the year to date figures. Sixty two percent of planning applications received in September were received by electronic means. To date 1628 submissions have been made online.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS	Sept	Year to date 2024
No. of planning applications received	89	782
No. of Planning Decisions made	70	666
No. of decisions notified by An Bord Pleanála	0	42
No. of pre-planning enquiries received	26	195
No. of Section 5 applications	7	76
No. of Section 97 Exemption Cert applications (in respect of Part V of the Planning & Dev Act 2000)	3	28
Submissions received regarding Compliance	16	193

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

September Statistics (28th August to 30th September 2024)

New Complaints Received	24
New Files Opened	7
Files Closed	0
Warning Letters Issued	2
Enforcement Notices Issued	5
Legal Proceedings	3

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

- Training:** After a short break during August, LEO Clare recommenced training programmes with a total over 150 clients signing up to courses throughout Sep-tember. These courses included training in Start Your Own Business, Bookkeep-ing, Digital Marketing, Email Marketing, Facebook & Instagram Ads & a Lean workshop for the Craft & Creative Sectors.
- Mentoring:** In September, the LEO appointed mentors to 17 businesses, bringing the total number of mentoring assignments to 179 since January.

September Evaluation Committee Meeting

The Local Enterprise Office Evaluation and Approvals Committee (EVAC) held their fifth evaluation meeting of 2024 on 24th September. Eight projects were brought forward comprising 4 Priming grants, 2 Business Expansion grants & 2 Feasibility grants busi-nesses were approved €185k in funding.

Student Enterprise Programme 2024/2025

LEO Clare launched Ireland's largest student enterprise programme with a total of five induction days around the county in September. To meet demand, a further induction day is planned in early October. In total seventeen secondary schools have attended in-cluding over 1,000 students. The students will compete across three categories, Junior, Intermediate and Senior.

Each student enterprise is challenged with creating, setting up and running their own business, which must show sales of their service or product.

National Ploughing Championships 2024

One of Clare’s best small businesses were able to exhibit their business to almost 300,000 people at the National Ploughing Championships in September as part of the Local Enterprise Village. Edel Breslin, founder of Oir Tonic, represented Clare alongside businesses from all other Local Enterprise Offices nationwide. Edel is passionate about harnessing the power of nature to enhance well-being. Her mission is to create wellness products deeply rooted in the healing properties of Irish Sea Moss, also known as Car-rageen Moss. Her flagship product, Moss Boss Tonic, is crafted locally using organic, sustainably sourced ingredients & is stocked in wellness stores nationwide.



L-R Edel Breslin, founder of Oir Tonic, & Helen Pilkington, LEO Clare

Women in Business Networking Event

Local Enterprise Office Clare hosted a Women in Business networking event at the Inn at Dromoland on 11th September. The keynote speaker was Sinead Crowther, creator of Tonstix and CEO of Soothing Solutions Ltd. Ms. Crowther shared her journey in developing the innovative solution known as Tonstix, covering aspects from branding and marketing to raising €1.4 million in investment. The event was attended by 49 local female entrepreneurs and was deemed highly successful



Deirdre Keating, LEO Clare & Sinead Crowther, along with female entrepreneurs from across Co Clare

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Property Transactions and Conveyancing

The Table below shows the number of property transactions completed by Property Management Unit up to 25th September 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	September 2024	Year to date 2024	Full year 2023
Lease / Sub Lease of Property / Building	3	6	7
Licence to use property / building	2	13	7
Grazing Agreement for Lands	1	20	17
Deed of Transfer signed	3	8	15
Contract for Sale / acquisition signed	0	0	1
Deed of Right of Way / Wayleave signed	0	5	2
Deed of Rectification / Variation signed	0	2	4
Allotment Agreements signed	40	40	39

Casual Trading

The granting of licences for the Lisdoonvarna Matchmaking Festival and a Summer event in Shannon were completed including the monitoring of the activities of the traders. In particular, the addition of licensed food trucks greatly adds to such events.

DERELICT SITES

The Derelict sites team are currently dealing with 266 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 September 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	September 2024	Year to date 2024	Full Year 2023
No. of new files opened	1	23	58
No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued - Intention to enter site on Derelict Sites Register	1	26	41
No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued - Entry of site onto Derelict Sites Register	2	31	24
No. of Section 11 Notices issued - Measures required to render the site non-derelict	0	1	0
No. of files closed / property removed from Derelict Sites Register	1	19	15
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
2022	6	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 got and sale closed in August 2024- New owner has commenced works
		2 - works have commenced and CPO parked for now
2023	10	7 - At Vesting Stage and lodged in PRA
		1 - CPO completed and will be put on open market for sale in September 2024
		2 - Objections received and are under appeal. Further work is needed on these properties
2024	7	3 - At Vesting Stage and lodged in PRA
		2 CPO process commenced
		1 CPO commenced and has been appealed. Appeal will be sent 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 has commenced in August 2024. A particular focus on properties in the town of Ennis has resulted in a number of properties coming to market.

Derelict Site Levy

Determination of valuations on the derelict sites which are on the Derelict Sites Register commenced in 2023 and notices have been issued to a number of property owners to date. Three 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 25th September 2024.

Derelict Sites Levy	September 2024	Year to date 2024	Full Year 2023
No. of properties on which the levy has been billed	1	11	0
Amount billed in respect of Derelict sites Levy	€3,500	€136,360	0
No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued – Entry of site onto Derelict Sites Register	2	31	24
Properties on which valuations have been requested	6	0	0
Properties on which notices of Valuation have been issued in past month	2	0	0

Survey of Vacant and Derelict Properties

The Team has completed the first round of surveys of vacant and derelict properties in towns and villages around the County. Based on the Geo-directory data on vacancy and dereliction, the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government 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 Centres First policy.

VACANT PROPERTY REFURBISHMENT GRANT - FOR DERELICT AND VACANT PROPERTIES

The level of approvals of the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant by Clare County Council is over €17 million as at 25th September 2024 (286 grant applications approved), with further approvals due to issue in the coming month. This is a very significant investment in housing in County Clare and the work ongoing around the county in renovations and extensions is very visible. The Vacant Homes Team continues to advise applicants on all elements of the scheme and is available to meet with individuals to take them through the process.

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 and get advice regarding making their applications, information required etc. This will allow them to move forward in their process to refurbish a vacant property with confidence. It is intended to arrange other such clinics around the County by the year end.



The breakdown of Grant approvals by Municipal District shows the level of potential investment in West Clare Municipal District in particular, which accounts for 57% of all Grants approved to date.

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	104	€6.4 million	37%
Ennistymon LEA	56	€3.4 million	20%
Ennis LEA	41	€2.3 million	14%
Killaloe LEA	54	€3.2 million	19%
Shannon LEA	31	€1.85 million	11%
Grand Total	267	€17.2 million	100%

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. A review of the Grants Scheme is being undertaken by the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government. We have fed into this review and have brought the concerns and suggestions of the elected members to their attention. The outcome of this review is awaited.

We continue to have high levels of enquiries and applications for the Croí Cónaithe Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant. As at 25th September, we have received 449 applications for the grant and we are in the top seven local authorities in the Country in relation to application numbers. Our response time for initial assessment of new applications is generally three to four weeks.

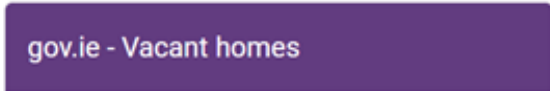
To date, we have processed thirty six payments of the grant amounting to €2.1 million and there are a number of claims for payments on hands. The level of claims is increasing and reflects completion of works on properties for which the grant was approved in 2022 and 2023.

Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Loan.

A new loan has been launched by Government called the Local Authority Purchase and Ren-ovation 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.

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. 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.

Full details of the scheme and eligibility criteria are published on the Council’s website. The contact email address for further information and guidance on the grants scheme is vacanthomes@clarecoco.ie.



ENNIS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Throughout September the Ennis MD Team continued to deliver and progress a range of services and projects. The main updates on the various projects/initiatives are as follows:

Co Creating Works 2024

Ennis MD Roads crews are currently working on the Co Creating Programme for 2024. The works involve footpath improvement works, Junction tightening and installation of the uncontrolled Pedestrian Crossings throughout Ennis Town. The current projects currently at construction stage are located on Circular Road, Cloughleigh Roundabout and the Hermitage Junction onto Circular road.

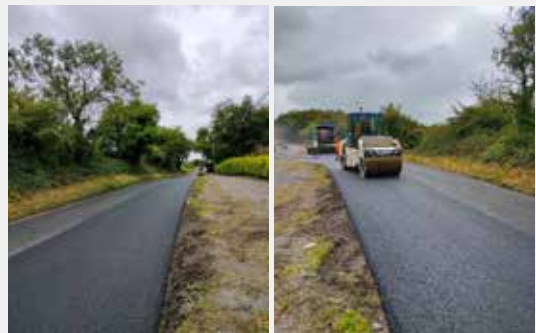




Road Works Programme

During September EMD completed the overlay of 1.1km of the R469 Quin road at Gurteen.

The works involved a full 100mm road build up of 60mm base course and 40mm SMA wearing course and new line marking to the road.



Low Cost Safety Projects

EMA are currently completing a Low Cost Safety Project on the Millbank Road, Roslevan. The works involve the following:

- 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



Autumn Maintenance

Ennis MD road sweeping crews have commenced autumn maintenance which includes leaf management, drainage gully maintenance and tree trimming. These works will continue for the coming season which is a key preventative measure in tackling localised and spot flooding.



Flood Relief - Pump Maintenance

Maintenance and scheduled inspections continued this month on a number of Ennis flood relief pumping stations. Works included electrical upgrades, controller and float repairs, filter replacements and overall pump inspections on and off site. These works are essential to ensure the flood relief pumping stations are maintained and serviced in advance of the adverse weather season.



Ennis N.S - Traffic Calming Measures

Ennis MD undertook repair works to various traffic calming measures in the vicinity of the Ennis N.S area. Works included repair and installation of flexible bollards to prevent incidences of illegal parking, while also repair boundary fencing in the area to ensure children can go to and from school safely.



Removal of Illegal Dumping

Ennis MD in co-ordination with the Environment Dept, assisted with the removal of a number of reports of illegal dumping. These areas included the N85, Gort Rd, Tulla Rd, Lahinch Rd and Considine Rd Ennis.

Trip Hazards - Ennis Town Centre

The Ennis MD small works crews attended to a number of trip hazards in the town centre area this month. Areas where loose/damaged paving and kerbing were repaired included Carmody St, Mill Rd, Woodquay and Market area, Ennis.



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:

Road Defect Repairs

The outdoor crews are continuing their schedule of road defects and pothole repair works in the Ennis area. With adverse weather conditions on the horizon, incidences of road defects are likely to come to light more frequently. Our crews have undertaken repairs this month in areas including Sandfield Park, Lifford Rd, Gort Rd and the Kilrush Rd, Ennis.

Francis Street S179A Affordable Housing Proposal

Enabling works completed.



Abbey Street (Riverside proposal)

Following the 3 no. Public Consultation events, a report on the findings from same has been prepared. The proposed design presented at the public consultations is being reviewed by the Design Team at present following feedback received.

Overgrowth Removal

To accommodate sightlines and safe permeability for pedestrians, a number of heavily overgrown areas were targeted this month for strimming maintenance. These areas included Francis St and Sandfield Park.

Harvey's Quay

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

Post Office Field Masterplan

Following 2 no. Public Consultation events, a report on the findings from same has been drafted. 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

Active Travel

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

Tulla Road Cycle Scheme:

- The detailed design for the final phase of the Tulla Rd Scheme is being finalised by the consultant. Following completion of a road safety audit a tender pack will be prepared to go to construction. The current programme indicates that the works will be issued for tender in early December.

Ennis LTP:

- Clare County Council and Systra Consulting Engineers recently presented the Option Selection report including the emerging Preferred Strategy/Map to the NTA. This is currently under review by the NTA.

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

- Preliminary Design is now at an advanced stage with the Preliminary Design Report expected to be received shortly for submission to the NTA.

Ardnacrusha to Athlunkard Bridge:

- This scheme is currently out to tender for consultancy services for the Option Selection and Preliminary Design Phase for this scheme. Tender closing date is the 2nd October.

Connecting & Co-creating Ennis:

- Works are progressing with these junction improvements throughout Ennis. Currently works are ongoing in Cloughleigh Rd /Circular Rd.

'Safe Routes To School' program:

- Holy Family National School: Phase 1 of this scheme has begun with works progressing well. The scheme involves footpath widening, kerb realignment, fencing, planting areas, table top ramps, controlled pedestrian crossing and signing and lining.



- Ennis National School: This scheme is currently at public consultation before going for Section 38 approval in the coming weeks. The scheme involves raised crossings, kerbing works, installation of planters and pencil bollards and road markings.

Public Lighting

“As part of the PLEEP (Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Programme) reconciliation surveys continue with crews currently based in the Ennis Area. As of the latest received project programme, retrofitting works are due to commence in late November as part of the PLEEP Project.

Electric Skyline have been appointed as the new maintenance contractor for Clare following the completion of the tender process. Clare County Council shall be working in conjunction with Electric Skyline to address existing faults at the earliest opportunity, however due to the absence of a maintenance contractor in advance of the appointment of Electric Skyline there is a back log which shall result in extended repair times for a period. In some locations the requirements to meet the ESB’s Minimum Requirements for Works on Public Lights necessitates additional works and ESB attendances to address existing substandard infrastructure.

For the benefit of Councillors, public lighting faults can be reported via Local Authority Identification (<https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/roads-and-transport/road-maintenance-issues/report-a-broken-streetlight>) or directly to Electric Skyline via [Report a Fault - Public Lighting - Electric Skyline](#).



Road Design Office

Project	Progress Update
Bridge Rehabilitation Programme	<p>Rehabilitation work has been completed at bridges at Derry, Willbrook, Ardcloney, Aughyvackeen, Kylea, Rathmeehan & Toren.</p> <p>The contractor is onsite at 5 bridges in East Clare and contractors are due to start shortly on 6 bridges in West Clare.</p> <div data-bbox="676 1473 1193 2069">Three photographs showing bridge rehabilitation work. The top photo shows a stone arch bridge over a stream. The bottom left photo shows a stone bridge structure. The bottom right photo shows a stone bridge structure.</div>

Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads	<p>Low Cost Safety Schemes in 2024: Designs have been completed for the Low Cost Safety Schemes and have been handed over to the MDs for delivery.</p> <p>Specific Improvement Grant Ogonolloe €100k: This scheme has been handed over to the MD for construction. Works include carriageway narrowing, build outs and a pedestrian crossing.</p>
Bus Shelters	Works on the installation of a new bus shelter at the Cliffs of Moher has commenced.

TII Safety Improvement

HD17	<p>N85 Lahinch Road Ennis Pedestrian Crossing Report for this crossing has been accepted on the TII portal. It is proposed to construct this in conjunction with the N85 Lahinch Road Shanaway Junction. A Section 38 will be advertised with the Shanaway Junction mini roundabout.</p> <p>N85 Lahinch Road Shanaway Junction The draft Preliminary Design report for a mini roundabout and pedestrian crossing has been forwarded to the TII Safety Engineer for review on the 24th September. Following the outcome of this review the design report will be uploaded to the TII Portal for approval.</p> <p>N85 Clareabbey Roundabout Approval of feasibility and options report is awaited from TII.</p> <p>Mountcharles Terrace Kilkee Amendments have been made following the Road Safety Audit and an updated Feasibility and Options report will be submitted to TII portal week ending 27th September.</p> <p>Minster Place, Kilkee A landscape design has been completed as part of the junction safety improvement works at Minster Place. An updated Preliminary Design Report has been submitted to the TII portal for approval to proceed to the statutory planning process. A high-level costing is currently being prepared which will be discussed with TII once complete.</p> <p>N67 /L2028 Junction Doonbeg A feasibility and options report will be submitted for safety improvement/traffic calming to the TII portal for approval week ending 27th September. Proposed works include junction tightening, provision of a raised pedestrian crossing and carriageway narrowing.</p> <p>N68 Rocky Road Pedestrian Crossing Comments on the feasibility report have been returned from TII Safety Engineer on 20th September. The Feasibility Design Report is being updated for submission to the TII portal.</p> <p>Fence Retrofit The closing date for tenders was the 18th September and the tender evaluation process is underway.</p> <p>Other Projects Some other safety improvement projects at concept design stage include N67 Clohanes Junction , N67 Cahirfeenick , N85 Inagh Pedestrian Crossing, N67 Lahinch Main Street Pedestrian Crossings, N67 Mullagh Junction at Clonadrum , N67 Miltown Malbay Junction & N68 Cranny Junction realignment.</p>
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North Clare Integrated Transport and Traffic Plan NCITTP

The steering group met on the 16th September 2024. The various working group leads outlined the actions delivered over the course of the last number of months. There has also been very positive engagement with the North Clare Community Group (NCCG). The actions delivered to date will be documented and uploaded to the designated webpage. It is proposed to brief the Members and the NCCG later in the year.

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.

11 Staff nominated as ISO 45001 Co-Ordinator's at departmental level attended ISO 45001 Awareness Training during September 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 will commence Internal H&S Audits in 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>Doolin Pier Visitor Services Building</p>	<p>A Cross Directorate team together with the North Clare Municipal District, is currently undertaking a review of the current Visitor Services Building brief. The terms of reference for this review includes parking capacity, access, and facilities necessary for present-day tourist transit and welfare. Following completion of this exercise, a revised submission will be made to the Department of Rural and Community Development in respect of additional funding required to advance the project through to Planning Approval stage.</p> <p>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>It is intended that there will be a briefing for the local area Councillors to advise on the plans and receive their input.</p>
<p>Ennis Public Realm Regeneration (Project B)</p>	<p>An intensive works programme continues on O'Connell Street with civils and paving crews deployed throughout at a number of site locations. With the completion of paving, construction fences are being removed, thereby opening up large areas of the street, revealing the newly remodelled shared surface streetscape.</p> <p>The recent completion of the High Street section marked an important milestone in the project, and by linking together with the shared surface streetscape of Parnell Street previously upgraded under the first phase of regeneration in 2021, a significant expanse of public realm between Carmody Street and O'Connell Square has now been remodelled under the URDF programme.</p> <p>The recent completion of the High Street section marked an important milestone in the project, and by linking together with the shared surface streetscape of Parnell Street previously upgraded under the first phase of regeneration in 2021, a significant expanse of public realm between Carmody Street and O'Connell Square has now been remodelled under the URDF programme.</p> <p>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 are completed in advance of the Christmas season. To this end, multiple crews have been deployed for the purposes of laying concrete protection slab sections, rerouting of services, and completion of paving. As well as working during normal business hours, it is now necessary to complete certain works on evening shifts to achieve earliest completion in advance of phasing plan for these areas.</p>

Additionally, works are soon to commence at upper O’Connell Street / Carmody street junction to complete the public realm project in this area in tandem with 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 Éireann (Irish Water) ensures that that legacy infrastructure is upgraded and future-proofs the sewer system and associated service delivery.

An additional significant milestone was reached, with the installation of the medium voltage ESB cable on O’Connell Street, and the decommissioning of existing legacy cabling.

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 ennispublic-realm@shareridge.ie 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.

The benefits of this worthwhile investment have become evident in recent weeks with the removal of temporary construction fencing and opening of street sections for public use. As well as shared surface paving, street features including raised limestone planters and raingardens are also being 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.

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 during the current period. Major milestones achieved in recent weeks include: - completion of waterproofing and laying of sand asphalt to bridge deck; completion of concrete works to bridge viewing platforms; commencement of snagging to Killaloe Bypass.



Killaloe Bypass Section

Kincora: Accom. works to CPO 101 (Ballyvalley House) in progress. Tarmac to roundabout and approaches completed to binder level. Outstanding drainage to interceptor ditch completed.



Main Cut to Hill Road: Finishing works to footpath and cycle track in progress. Public Lights being installed.



Hill Road to Creeveroe Road: Finishing works in progress.



Creeveroe Road to Shantraud: Finishing works in progress.



Shantraud Roundabout: CPO 124 Boundary wall complete. Pic 59

Shannon Bridge Crossing Link

Shantraud to Clarisford Junction: Paving to binder course complete.



Clarisford to West Embankment: Construction of walls to embankment ongoing. Pic 51



Shannon Bridge

Kentledge and approach slabs concreted. Waterproofing to deck complete. Sand asphalt to deck complete. Concrete works to Viewing Platforms complete. Finishing works progressing.



R494 Upgrade

Section 7 (South of Rail Bridge): Both new lanes open. Accom works to local properties progressing. Culvert installed. Pond formed.



Section 7 (North of Rail Bridge): Both new lanes open. Finishing works to shared facility and verge nearing completion. Cattle Underpass nearing completion. Accom. works to CPOs 182, 183 & 184 nearing completion. Shannonside Business Park Access Ramp kerbs and VRS installed.



Section 6: Both new lanes open. VRS installation nearing completion. Shared facility edgings being installed. Attenuation Ponds shaped.



Section 5 (Chainage 1350-1750): Accom. works nearing completion. Road construction activities to southern lane in progress. Protection to ductile iron main commenced. Culvert in progress.



Section 4 (Chainage 950-1350): Culverts installed. Attenuation tank installed. Attenuation pond shaped. Kerb installation on south bound lane commenced. Accom. works commenced. Pic 23 & 27



Section 3 (Chainage 650-950): Attenuation tanks installed. Accom. works nearing completion.



Sections 2: Accom. works in progress.



Section 1: Works to Pumping Station in progress. Surface water drainage and utility installation in progress. Accommodation works to affected properties in progress. Pic 43



Kilmastulla Bridge

Open to traffic. Finishing works to shared facility in progress.



Rail Bridge

Open to traffic. Pic 4 R494_3Sep2024



PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

	<p>RW03 (Shannonside Business Park): Finishing works to retaining wall complete. Works to access ramp in progress. VRS installed.</p>  <p>Additional project specific information including monthly drone footage, traffic management plans etc. is available on: https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/capital-projects/roads-and-bridges/killaloe-bypass-shannon-bridge-crossing/</p>
<p>Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme</p>	<p>Clare County Council are pleased to report that a planning application for fluvial flood defences in the town of Kilkee has been submitted to An Bord Pleanála.</p> <p>Clare County Council will continue to liaise with property owners for the necessary temporary and permanent land acquisitions required as part of the scheme.</p>
<p>Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF)</p>	<p>The Engineering Consultants for the project, RPS, are currently finalising the tender documentation for the infrastructure element of the scheme.</p> <p>Currently over half of the landbanks required for the road have been acquired/agreed terms including the parcel of lands where the first approx. 225 housing units will be delivered. There is positive engagement with all remaining landowners, and we are hopeful of reaching terms by agreement in the coming weeks.</p> <p>Discussions are ongoing with the Department of Housing and to that regard, the LIHAF Management Committee of the Department intend to issue a revised Grant Agreement which will enable us to move forward with the Infrastructure & Housing delivery.</p> <p>The Master Planning of the housing development is expected to be completed in early 2025. The housing scheme design would then begin, and with the conclusion of this stage a planning application would be lodged for the proposed development in 2025.</p>
<p>N19 Shannon Airport Access Road</p>	<p>Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) stage is currently ongoing with Phase 4 (Statutory Consent) stage progressing thereafter.</p> <p>FTC & 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., in preparation of submitting this project for Statutory Consent later in 2024. A final design update will be presented to the Shannon MD in October.</p> <p>Phase 5 (Enabling and Procurement) & Phase 6 (Construction) will progress thereafter which are subject to timely consents, no legal challenge, funding, etc. The construction contract is estimated to be in the region of 18 months in duration.</p> <p>Positive discussions continue regarding the necessary Land Transfer Agreements between The Minister for Transport, The Shannon Group and Clare County Council and as always, further information and associated literature on the project can be accessed via the scheme website www.shannonaccess.ie</p>
<p>Quin Remedial Flood Scheme</p>	<p>The project to construct a flood mitigation scheme at Quin to protect three existing dwelling houses is now completed 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>Remediation of sites containing ACM</p>	<p>A Planning Application in respect of all 7 sites is currently will be lodged in coming months, with a view to approval in early 2025. This will be followed by tender process and implementation. Design in respect of remediation of ACMs is at an advanced stage, having completed topographical surveys and site profiling in 2023.</p> <p>The sites continue to be routinely monitored and maintained as required by Council staff in accordance with our agreed approach following discussion and consultation with the EPA.</p>

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Shannon Town & Environs Flood Relief Scheme	<p>Additional topographical surveys are required, and the consultant has been instructed to carry them out. They will commence in the coming weeks.</p> <p>A meeting with Shannon Golf Club was held recently to further develop the extensive accommodation works required in this area of the scheme.</p> <p>Clare County Council have approved the 2024 Wintering Bird Survey proposal. The surveys, which have now commenced, will be ongoing up to and including March of 2025.</p> <p>Following agreement of the Mogullaan watercourse defences, the Options Report will now be updated and issued for steering group approval.</p> <p>Coordination and data sharing with the project team for the N19 Access Road Upgrade is ongoing.</p>
West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 1: Kilrush to Kilkee)	<p>TII approval to formally progress from Phase 2 to Phase 3 is being reviewed and a decision is imminent. During Phase 3, Clare County Council will be permitted to formally issue an invitation to potentially affected landowners to participate in the 'Voluntary Land Acquisition Process'. This new process, was introduced as part of the 'Code of Best Practice for National & Regional Greenways' in 2021.</p>
West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 2: Ennis to Ennistymon)	<p>A Land Liaison Officer has been appointed, which will permit further informal consultation with potentially affected landowners to be undertaken prior to progressing to the third non-statutory public consultation on the emerging preferred route corridor.</p>
West Clare Railway Greenway (Sections 3 & 4: Ennistymon to Miltown Malbay to Moyasta)	<p>Environmental specialists continue to map the constraints in the Study Area to inform the development of possible route options. 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>
Other Greenway Proposals	<p>No update this month.</p>

General Design Office

Vandeleur Gardens Yard Wall and Storage Container	<p>Part 8 planning application to be prepared.</p>
Town and Village Renewal Scheme	<p>Parteen - Contractors works are completed, electrical sub-contractor to start installation of lighting columns and equipment by mid-September.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>

FIRE & BUILDING CONTROL SECTION

Training Courses

Clare County Fire & Rescue Service personnel underwent a number of training courses during September, including Emergency Traffic Management Training at Killaloe, Kilrush & Kilkee Fire Stations; High Angle Line Rescue Training at Ennisytmon Fire Station. 11 personnel from Clare County Fire & Rescue Service took part in a two-week QQI Accredited Breathing Apparatus (Initial Wearers) Course at Hacketstown Training Centre. 4 Instructors from the Brigade were involved in delivering the training. The students will be based at Ennis, Shannon, Ennistymon, Scarriff, Killaloe & Kilrush Fire Stations.



Inter-Agency Exercise - Limerick Tunnel

Crews from Shannon and Ennis Fire Brigades participated in a large scale Inter Agency Exercise at Limerick Tunnel on Wednesday 25th September. The exercise tested the response to a large Road Traffic Collision and resultant fire in the tunnel. Participating agencies included: Clare County Fire & Rescue Service, Limerick City and County Fire & Rescue Service, National Ambulance Service, An Garda Síochána, HSE Emergency Management Unit and Direct Route Limerick Tunnel Operators.



Fire & Building Control Section Main Activities	Aug 2024	Sept 2024 (Up to 23.09.24)	Year to Date 2024
Number of Emergency Calls Attended	94	63	855
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Received	6	1	74
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Granted	6	2	68
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Invalidated	1	0	4
Number of Disability Access Certificates Received	2	8	43
Number of Disability Access Certificates Granted	5	1	38
Number of Commencement Notices Received	21	25	377
Number of Dangerous Structures/Places Complaints	0	0	17

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

CLARE CIVIL DEFENCE

Operational Duties:

- Civil Defence provided medical cover at a number of events in September including GAA Matches (Cusack Park); Little Blue Hero's Cycle over 2 days (Killaloe - Kilrush) and Charity Cycle (Quin - Athenry).
- Clare Civil Defence members were not assigned to any missing person searches in September.
- Patient transfer from Clare to Dublin.

Members Training & Professional Development

- Weekly training to resume for all members on the 26th September.
- 12 members starting Year 2 of the Recruits Course on the 26th September.

New Recruits 2024/2025 Recruit Basic Training (RBT) Class

16 new recruits will commence training on the 30th September. They will begin with a mandatory safety induction night followed by two nights training on manual handling.

Health & Safety

The Civil Defence Officer and Assistant Civil Defence Officer continue to work closely with the Health & Safety Officer, meeting monthly to review Gap Analysis ISO 45001 Report in advance of the upcoming NSAI Audit.

ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Awareness

Relove Fashion

This month Clare County Council are among participating Local Authorities that provided an opportunity for teenagers to register their interest to showcase their creativity and passion for sustainable fashion by designing and creating their own sustainable outfits as part of a nationwide "Relove Fashion Competition".

The Relove Fashion Competition is also supported by the Regional Waste Management Planning Offices and the Rediscovery Centre.

The graphic features a central image of four sustainable fashion outfits hanging on a clothesline. Above the outfits is a blue starburst with the text 'SUSTAINABLE FASHION COMPETITION' and a pink starburst with 'OPEN TO YOUNG PEOPLE OF SECONDARY SCHOOL AGE'. To the left is a black box with 'RELOVE FASHION' and a globe icon. Below the outfits is a yellow box with 'STAY IN THE LOOP', a black box with 'REGISTER YOUR INTEREST NOW!' and three pink hearts, and a purple box with 'OPEN TO YOUNG PEOPLE OF SECONDARY SCHOOL AGE ACROSS IRELAND'. To the right is the 'relove fashion' logo and a QR code.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Champion Programme

Our Environmental Awareness Officer presented at the Department of Environment Climate and Communications end of year SDG Champion 2023/2024 showcasing event on the 30th September 2024. This marked the transition to Clare County Council becoming SDG Ambassadors. The SDG Champion program will be lead by the Climate Department going forward.

Social media posts on the outputs of the SDG Accelerating Action Assessment Tool were showcased on social media during SDG Week.

An Taisce Green Schools Programme

Our Environmental Awareness Officer was in attendance and participated in breakout rooms at the online An Taisce seminar targeting secondary school Green School Co-ordinators.

Gardening

With the noticeable drop in air temperature and the long evenings closing in, gardening works shift focus to planning for the 2025 growing season.

Through September and October, the team will plant 100's of spring flowering bulbs that will begin to flower as early as February and herald the oncoming Spring.

During September, the team has continued to maintain flower beds and planters with tasks such as weeding and dead-heading to ensure that flowers continue to bloom well into the Autumn period.

September also marks the start of the hedge-cutting season, wherein the gardening team can commence shaping and pruning hedges and trees that may have become unruly during the Summer.

As part of the Council's ongoing commitment to implementing measures under the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, the gardening

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

team developed a grassland meadow at Áras Contae an Chláir during Summer 2024.

An essential step in this grassland management is the seasonal cutting and collecting of grass in Autumn. This important step of cutting and removal of grass, promotes the growth of a diverse range of plant species which shall act as a food source for pollinating insects.

The Gardening Team will work with the Council’s Biodiversity Officer and the National Biodiversity Data Centre to undertake a Pollinator Monitoring Scheme at this location in future years to help understand the distribution, trends and status of insect pollinator populations (bees, hoverflies and butterflies).

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	September 2024	Total to date 2024
Bathing Water Monitoring	14	182
Domestic Wastewater		
Treatment Plant Inspections (NIP Plan)	0	45
Public queries processed regarding DWWTs grants	2	29
Monitoring Inspections of Section 4 licenced premises	8	66
Planning applications (Agriculture)	5	34
Planning applications (Domestic)	33	220
Planning applications (Large Developments)	7	25
Planning applications (Forestry)	20	61
Pollution complaints received	8	106
Private Commercial Drinking Water Supplies	1	23
Private/Public Group Water Scheme supplies	11	121
Rivers	50	183
Farm Inspections (NAIP) (Routine Planned & Unplanned)	21	63

Bathing Water Season 2024

During the 2024 Bathing Water Season, one prohibition notice, and one advisory notice were put in place. A total of 5 prior warning notices were issued in advance of heavy rainfall events. Clare County Council noted no proliferation of blue/green algae on Lough Derg during the 2024 monitoring season.

Waste Enforcement

On the 11th September 2024 a Multi-Agency Checkpoint was held on at two Co. Clare locations:

1. on the N85 outbound from Ennis at Clareabbey, Ennis, Co. Clare, (am) and
2. on the N19 inbound to Shannon approaching the Smithstown Industrial Estate (pm).

Clare County Council’s Waste Enforcement Team, the Department of Social Protection, the National Trans-frontier Shipment Office, and Southern Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (WERLA) were in attendance. The checkpoint was led by An Garda Síochána.

This initiative formed part of the larger “Day of Action”, which was co-ordinated by the Southern Multi-Agency Forum, a group that meets quarterly, to formulate a program for the prevention and detection of environmental crime. Similar checkpoints were held in Cork City and Kerry on the same day.

A total of 62 vehicles were stopped and inspected. Various issues were noted from a Waste Enforcement perspective, including failure to produce a copy of Waste Collection Permits, failure to display Waste Collection Permit Numbers on vehicles, and producing out of date permits. Enforcement actions were taken, to ensure compliance with the Waste Management (Collection Permit) Regulations 2007, as Amended, including the issuing of 2 on-the-spot fines (one of which has since been paid), and 2 warning letters.

Overall, there was good interaction between the agencies. The checkpoint ran well operationally, thanks to An Garda Síochána who took the lead on traffic management. All agencies involved achieved their objectives i.e. raising awareness and taking enforcement action on non-compliances with relevant legislation.



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

Inspections of 9 permitted and 1 unauthorised facilities were carried out by the Waste Enforcement team in September. Follow-up enforcement action is ongoing in the case of the unpermitted site. The permitted sites were inspected to monitor compliance with their permit conditions, to achieve positive environmental outcomes for the receiving environments.

In addition to the 2 fines mentioned above, a further 4 x €500 fines were issued to waste collectors in September, **under Section 34 (7) (d) of the Waste Management Act 1996 (as amended)** for non-compliance with their permit conditions.

The tables below summarise the work of the Waste Enforcement team in September 2024:

Waste Enforcement Complaints	September 2024	Total YTD 2024
Litter	6	70
Dog Fouling	3	38
Waste Presentation	1	22
Dumping	68	579
CRM complaints (total)	101	1366

Waste Enforcement Inspections	September 2024
Cert of Registration	7
Waste Facility Permits	2
Unauthorised Sites	1

In addition to the above, 2 inspections were done to monitor compliance with the **Deposit Return Scheme** in September.

Annual Return Validations and Inspections of WFP/COR Sites

Validations of Annual Returns submitted by permit holders for 2023 continues throughout September as required by the Regional Waste Enforcement Lead Authority. This work involves site visits and liaison with site operators as well as desktop validation of data received.

Mattress Amnesty Days

A Mattress Amnesty Day was held at the Central Waste Management Facility in Inagh on September 28th. Householders were given the opportunity to dispose of their mattresses free of charge. We collected 994 mattresses on the day. The collection company operates a recycling policy. Through this project, the partners developed a product range that uses previously unrecycled materials from the mattress to make new products, which in turn can be recycled multiple times.

A second Mattress Amnesty Day is proposed for Shannon on October 5th to service the southeast of the county.

Waste management

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

Civic Amenity Site Waste Streams (KG)	
Item	August
Bulky items	56,180
Cardboard	26,902
Dry Recyclable	642
Glass	4
Green Waste	74,420
Mattresses	6,000
Municipal Waste	156,558
Plastic	32,160
Timber	119,940

CLIMATE ACTION



As part of the Community Climate Action Programme three projects will be funded as part of the Shared Island Fund. This involves a Clare group partnering with a group based in Northern Ireland. The Clare groups working on these projects are Clare GAA, Crusheen GAA and Feakle GAA. In the context of

Clare County Council being the lead on this fund, Community Climate Action Officer Dara Dever visited the three northern partners taking part in the Project this month. Derry GAA, Greencastle GAA (Tyrone) and Trillick GAC (Tyrone). It was great to meet all of those involved and hear about the project plans. We

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

look forward to following the progress of these Climate Action projects. The combined value of these projects is €236,636.



10 local groups are working together as part of Inagh Development's Community Climate Action Project aimed at making their community more climate resilient. Community Climate Action Officer Dara Dever visited the group to talk about the initial stages of their project. This project involves the installation of a solar PV system in the community hall and GAA Clubhouse. They will install covered bike parking, two water refill stations as well as planting native fruit and nut trees. They will replace existing Astroturf lighting with LED lighting and replace existing walkway lighting with LED lighting. Community Climate projects such as this align with the councils objective of increasing awareness and capacity to take action on Climate within our communities.



Community Climate Action Officer Dara Dever attended a plenary session in Trinity College to review the Community Climate Action Programme to date. This workshop was attended by Community Climate Action Officers from around the country. Learnings and recommendations for various stages of the community climate action programme were discussed. Officers also attended a presentation from Lucie Martin from the ESRI social science unit on behavioural change and climate action.



Energy

Energy Management team sat in September to analyse consumption in the year to date. Stephen Hanley from Clare Tourism East DAC has joined the Team. This will ensure that the assets included in the Shannon Heritage transfer will now be included in the energy and emissions accountancy process. The Energy Management Team will work together to ensure that Energy efficiency projects are progressed over the coming years. Work will now turn towards preparing for ISO50001 reaccreditation towards the end of year.

Sustainable Development Goal Week 2024

In support of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Week Clare County Council hosted a third SDG week with events scheduled across the county from September 17th up to October 3rd. This formed part of the wider National and European Sustainable Development Week (ESDW). The Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) work towards ambitions such as an end to poverty, access to decent work, sustainable consumption, protection of nature, better health and wellbeing, universal access to education, gender equality, climate action, and peaceful societies.



Clare County Council Selected As SDG Ambassador

Having participated in the 2023 SDG Champions programme, Clare County Council now serves as an SDG Ambassador, contributing to promotion, awareness-raising, and implementation of the SDGs, at local, regional and national levels. In this role Clare County Council will continue to work to integrate and embed the SDGs into the programmes and policies across all of its directorates.

Briefing to Newly Elected Councillors

On September 9th Morgan Lahiffe, Climate Action Coordinator and Chris Dixon O'Mara, Climate Action Officer delivered a briefing to newly elected Councillors on the Clare Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 which was adopted in February 2024. The briefing provided Councillors with an overview of the rationale and legislation underpinning the Climate Action Plan along with information on the various means of public and stakeholder engagement which informed the plans development. The briefing concluded with an review of the key climate actions contained in the plan along with the opportunity for questions and remarks by the newly elected Councillors with regards to the Climate Action Plan.

Ardnacrusha Site Visit

The Physical Development Senior Team led by Director Alan Farrell visited Ardnacrusha Hydro electric station on August 26th. The agenda included a presentation from ESB technical staff on the challenges faced by the ESB in dealing with flood situations whilst maintaining the highest safety standards, the monitoring of embankments and the communication of these challenges with all stakeholders. The meeting reiterated the close relationship required between the ESB and the local authority going forward. The station completed in 1929 has an installed capacity of 86MW.



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.

Applications for Group Water Scheme annual subsidy which is available to fund operational costs of group water schemes pro-

viding 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, 31 applications have been received to date in 2024. Post works final inspections for 2023 works within the last 12 months are ongoing.

The Rural Water Services Conference took place on Thursday the 12th of September 2024 titled: Strategies for a resilient rural water sector. Excellence Flag Winners were also presented on the day. Dysart Toonagh Group Water Scheme were one such scheme that received an Excellence Flag in the category of Water Safety Planning and Quality Assurance Implementation.

SHANNON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Future mobility campus mobility day

Representatives from Shannon MD attended the MaaS4IRL Mobility Day at Future Mobility Campus Ireland (FMCI) who had the opportunity to hear about cutting-edge projects, join guided tours and network with other attendees. MaaS4IRL is a research project in conjunction with the Insight SFI Research Centre for Data Analytics at University of Galway. The demonstrations were of key automotive dataset gathering vehicles and projects. This innovative event on September 9th at FMCI, Shannon, Co. Clare was supported with financial contribution from Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland and the Department of Transport under the SEAI Research, Development & Demonstration Funding Programme. Speakers at the event included Russell Vickers of Future Mobility Campus Ireland, Dr. Rafiqul Haque from University of Galway, Dr Gearoid Hynes from Cityswift and many more. FMCI provides research and development infrastructure as well as services for the mobility sector and is also equipped with test vehicles, smart city infrastructure covering 12km of roads, a dedicated low speed testing area and a drone R&D flight hub.



Shannon Md Welcomes An Garda Siochana To September Meeting

Cathaoirleach Pat O Gorman welcomed Sergeant Seamus Mulligan and Sergeant Denis Lavin to the September meeting of Shannon Municipal District. The presentation to the Members covered a wide range of topics including the current garda operating model, larger divisions, crime statistics, juvenile liaison programme, community engagement areas and the future focus of the local gardai. Sergeant Mulligan advised that neighbourhood watch, business watch, community information briefings and school visits will be their focus in the coming months. He also stated that targeted patrolling including higher visibility on the ground, and an increased focus on road traffic issues including drug driving detections will be to the policing forefront also. The importance of reporting crime incidents was highlight-

ed to the Members. The strong working relationship between the Members and An Garda Siochana was acknowledged at the meeting.



Rural and community officer - Shannon md

Conor Leyden, Rural and Community Development Officer gave a briefing to Shannon MD Members on his role before the September MD meeting. Ms Bernie Haugh, Senior Executive Officer from the Rural & Community Directorate was also in attendance.

The Rural and Community Development Officer works diligently with local community groups of all sizes, building the capacity of voluntary community leaders and organisations to identify and source funding for projects, which will assist in ultimately providing their areas with an enhanced quality of life for its residents. Identifiable Projects should have a particular focus on the LECP (Local Economic and Community Plan) and the Clare Rural Development Strategy. The work is underpinned by engagement that is based on community development principles and practices.

Culture night

Culture Night was celebrated on 20th September 2024 and Shannon MD worked closely with Shannon Community Partnership on facilitating this event.

Throughout the day and night, there was a series of events for the whole family to enjoy including folklore storytelling from Balor Otherworld at Shannon Library, followed by dancing at the crossroads with the Kirby family, a drumming circle led by Brian Fleming, and a choir performance at Drumgeely Plaza. Shannon was delighted to that Blackie O'Connell & Eoghan Neff brought their unique and talented music playing to Drumgeely. Their performance was an unforgettable auditory experience.

A very interesting and captivating short art film was also show that focused on the early days of Shannon New Town 'Sionna Go Brea: A Journey into Shannon's Beginnings', brought insight to some of its original residents. This evocative film offered a glimpse into the town's unique history and the experiences that shaped its community. Yarn Bombing also added colour and excitement to the event. The yarn bombing of a Volkswagen beetle car that was on display on the night was amazing and had to

be seen to be believed. Well done to all involved on a fantastic Culture Night.



- 37-40 Cill Chais
- Inis Ri
- Foyle park
- Corrib Drive



- Overlay works resumed in Shannon MD - Fairyfields Parteen (due to commence shortly), Corbally Road, School Road Parteen, Mountlivers.
- Laneway surface upgrades at Fairyfields, Parteen.



- Roundabout upgrade outside St Johns school Drumgeely, Shannon



Corporate Plan Workshop

Cathaoirleach Pat O Gorman and Leas Cathaoirleach Donna McGettigan attended a group workshop on the preparation of the new Corporate Plan for Clare County Council. The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Sean O Riordain. This was a very interactive and practical event which garnered the views of the Members as well as senior staff on the future corporate priorities for the Council. It will serve as the Council's strategic framework for actions during the lifetime of the elected Council and it will play a key role in achieving the vision for the county of Clare. The new Corporate Plan 2025-2029 will be adopted by December 2024.

Works Underway

- Surface upgrade to parking bays in Rossbracken, Shannon
- Footpath maintenance contract is ongoing in Kilnasoolagh in Newmarket on Fergus and other works were completed at the following locations:

Bishop Murphy Park

- Upgrade works were recently carried out to a lane to the rear of Bishop Murphy Park.
- The works followed a meeting and walkaround with the recently established Parteen Town Team.
- Shannon MD has also applied for a grant through the Participation Nation Fund to upgrade the playing area at this location.



Resurfacing works were completed in Cronan Park and Cronan Garden in Shannon.

- Road maintenance work on going in the Municipal District, e.g. road sweeping, road repairs, footpath repairs, green area maintenance.
- Drainage maintenance works on going throughout the MD.
- Road markings maintenance works ongoing in Westbury, Parteen, Shannon and Sixmilebridge.
- Mini road sweeper improvement works were carried out in Finian Park.
- Traffic calming on School Road Parteen including traffic light new footpath and overlay
- Upgrade of Cratloe junction L3102 & L3112 including road signage, road marking and edge delineators
- Shannon Banks - Clearance of overgrown vegetation in green area in Riverwalk
- Additional bin at entrance to Town Park in Shannon and deep clean of the Park carried out during the Summer.

