



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

TUARASCÁIL MHÍOSÚIL ÓN PHRÍOMHFHEIDHMEANNACH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Meán Fómhair / September
2024



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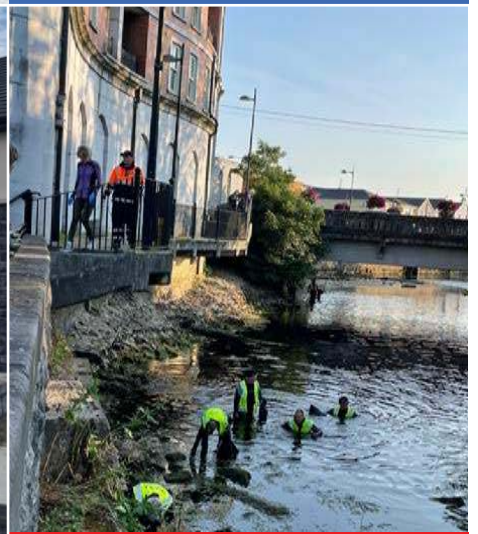
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All-Ireland Homecoming



The Clare Senior Hurling Team and Management returned with the Liam MacCarthy Cup to a rapturous reception in Ennis on 22nd July, 2024.

Crowds gathered from 5pm on the evening at Active Ennis Tim Smythe Park (the Fair Green) to welcome the All-Ireland winning hurlers home. Organised by Clare County Council and Ennis Municipal District, and supported by the National Ambulance Service, An Garda Síochána, Clare County Fire and Rescue Service, Clare Civil Defence, the HSE, Active Ennis, Clare Volunteer Centre and Clare GAA, the event saw an estimated 35,000-plus people come to show their appreciation for the Clare team.

Cllr Alan O'Callaghan, Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, welcomed the team to the stage and applauded their efforts, saying, "It's wonderful to see such a sea of saffron and blue here in our county town tonight. The whole county has been captivated by the performances of this wonderful team. Thanks to Brian Lohan and the team for what they have given us in recent weeks."

Cllr Clare Colleran Molloy, Mayor of Ennis Municipal District, said, "I have no doubt that there was many a tear cried at Croke Park on Sunday, and they were tears of joy, and there were also many hearts that swelled with pride at this incredible team of hurlers. I congratulate them all on their marvellous achievement in becoming All-Ireland Champions."

Pat Dowling, Chief Executive of Clare County Council, said, "Clare County Council was proud to support Clare GAA and the Clare senior hurlers with this homecoming event to thank them for the lift they have given the whole county with their magnificent All-Ireland triumph. Clare County Council staff and the agencies that supported us were delighted to play a role in making the homecoming a success."

The homecoming was the result of detailed planning and co-operation between all parties involved, culminating in an overall Event Management and Safety Plan. Meetings of the organising group were led by Clare's Chief Fire Officer, Adrian Kelly, and Senior Executive Officer in Clare County Council, Caroline O'Connor, along with Ennis MD Senior Engineer Seán Lenihan and with significant input from A/Senior Executive Engineer Paddy Tiernan and the Ennis MD team. In progressing the detailed arrangements, the group was supported by Futureama Productions. In addition to the overall management and organisational arrangements, the group also set about putting in place a quality entertainment programme, including Katie Theasby and friends, One September and others. Ollie Mullooly and Marty Morrissey MC'd on the evening.

According to Adrian Kelly, Clare's Chief Fire Officer: "Active Ennis Tim Smythe Park proved to be an excellent location for such a major outdoor event with traffic management on the evening working exceptionally well. Crowd management and dispersal also worked in accordance with preparations. I would like to thank everyone involved in organising the event. We are delighted to have been able to acknowledge the achievements of the Clare hurlers and welcome them home."



RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Community Recognition Fund 2024 – Window 1



20 projects across County Clare were recently awarded funding totalling €1.7million under the Community Recognition Fund 2024.

The funded projects span a broad spectrum of community needs, from upgrading local sports facilities and community centres to enhancing walking trails and playgrounds. Each project is tailored to meet the unique needs of its community, reflecting the government’s dedication to empowering local initiatives that foster community spirit and development.

The funding will not only improve local infrastructure but also enhance social cohesion by providing safe and inclusive spaces for community members to gather, interact, and engage in healthy activities.

The 20 projects which have been allocated funding in County Clare are as follows:

Group Name	Project Description	Grant Awarded
Clare County Council	Refurbishment of Lahinch Playground	165,000
St.Joseph's National School Miltown Malbay	Construction of an outdoor classroom area, an outdoor exercise area, a tarmac walkway, a biodiversity sensory garden area and picnic benches.	120,000
Active Ennis, Clare County Council	Upgrade running track in Tim Smythe Park in Ennis.	140,000
Clarecastle GAA, Camogie & LGFA Club	Construct grass-running track at the GAA facility	70,000
Scariff Bay Community Radio	Purchase and fit out an outside broadcast vehicle	59,000
Kilrush Town Team	Upgrading of Cappa Playground in Kilrush	85,000
Kilmaley Meitheal & Kilmaley GAA & Camogie Clubs	Tarring of walkway at GAA/Playground community facility and other site works including steps to connect the walkway to the new overflow carpark.	80,000
Ballyvaughan Community Development Group	Installation of low level sports fencing and resurfacing the car park area at the Ballyvaughan Community Field Project	91,000

Tulla Courthouse Community Development Ltd	Upgrades and maintenance of Tulla Courthouse	70,000
Wolfe Tones Na Sionna GAA Club	Refurbishment of Wolfe Tones na Sionna Community hall	62,000
Kilballyowen Development CLG	Replacement of the existing roof at Halla Eoin	60,000
Michael Cusacks GAA Club in conjunction with North Burren Community Group	Phase 1 of proposed new Community Building	165,000
Active Ennis	Road surfacing works at John O'Sullivan Park	50,000
Newmarket Celtic FC	Construction of public carpark at Newmarket Celtic FC	80,000
The Banner GAA Ennis	Tarmacadam of the walkway around perimeter of pitch at Banner GAA club facility.	50,000
Lisdoonvarna Failte CLG	Twin Wells West Landscaping Project	125,000
Ballina Killaloe Community Sports Facilities Development Company CLG	Supply and installation of 1.2m hardwearing double-beam mesh fencing and gates at Clarisford Park	80,000
St Senans RFC	Upgrading of floodlighting at St Senans RFC	50,000
Shannon Swimming and Leisure Centre Ltd	Replacement of cardio gym equipment	50,000
Clare Cricket Club	Renovate clubhouse building	50,000

Rural & Community Development Officers





In mid-July, Tulla Scouts, with the support of Darren Carroll (RCDO for Killaloe MD), held a public information evening to raise awareness of their 'Canon's Field Community Park' project, which seeks to provide Tulla with a new, centrally positioned green space for leisure and recreation. In parallel with this event, the Scouts also launched an online survey seeking the views of the local community in relation to the types of amenities they would like to see provided in the new park. They are now working with their landscape architect to refine and finalise the site design and layout in response to the feedback provided, with a view to submitting a full application by early September.

Official Opening of the Kilkeedy Playground in Tubber

The Kilkeedy Playground was officially opened in August, marking a significant milestone for the community. The project was spearheaded by the Kilkeedy Community Development Group, which successfully secured €50,000 in CLÁR funding in 2023. The playground is situated on the grounds of the Tubber GAA. Throughout the project, the Rural and Community Development Officer collaborated closely with the Kilkeedy CDG, guiding the initiative from its initial concept through to completion.



Photos Right to Left: Clora Neilan, Kilkeedy CDG, Cathal Crowe TD, Andrew Monaghan, Tubber GAA, Niamh Wiley, RCDO, Clare County Council.



RCDO support for groups applying for CCIF 2024:

The Council's Rural and Community Development Officers (RCDOs) have been supporting community groups from across Clare with their funding applications for this year's Community Centre Investment Fund 2024, which offers grants of up to €100,000 for the improvement and refurbishment of existing community centres in both urban and rural areas. RCDO support to these groups has included providing guidance on the application process, clarification on project eligibility, advice on how best to present and promote their project within the application forms, and suggestions of what types of supporting information might enhance their applications. Community Groups must register directly with the Department and submit applications online via an online portal. The closing date for applications is 3pm on the 29th August 2024.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



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

Department of Rural & Community Development

Community Centres Investment Fund

2024 - Refurbishment Grant

Application Form - Category 1 and 2



This application is for information only. You must complete the online Application Form to be considered for funding.

Clare Age Friendly Programme

The Clare Older People's Council held their Annual General Meeting on 9th July. The Chair, Maurice Harvey, opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees. He provided the Chairperson's Report outlining all of the OPC's activities since the last AGM, details as follows: -

- Clare Older People's Volunteer of the Year Award 2024
- Sign off of the Clare Age Friendly Strategy 2024-2030.
- Health & Wellbeing Age Expo 2023
- Intergenerational Project in East Clare.
- Monthly OPC meetings.
- OPC representation on the Clare Age Friendly Alliance, National Network of OPCs, National Transport Committee, Ageism Committee, Joint Policing Committee.

Susan Harvey outlined the Treasurer's report. Presentations took place as follows:-

- Clare Age Friendly Programme Report by Kelly Slattery, Clare Age Friendly Programme Manager.
- Healthy Age Friendly Homes by Karen Fennessy, Regional Programme Manager, Mid-West, Healthy Age Friendly Homes.

Discussions took place in relation to the following:

- Nomination and Election Process
- Terms of Reference
- OPC representation
- Social events and education for older people
- Government Policy on Digitisation
- ICA in Ireland

The Clare Age Friendly Programme team and members of the Clare Older People's Council are currently organising 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.



Clare Cultural Companions

The Clare Cultural Companions initiative has been short-listed in the annual Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards under the Age Friendly Initiative category. The awards will be presented on Thursday, 21st November in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dublin.



There are several upcoming Cultural Companions events scheduled throughout September and October including a social outing to Loophead Lighthouse and Vandeleur Walled Gardens and Visitor Centre, coffee morning and Glór: Music Network presents Nollaig Casey, Niall McCabe & Mike McGoldrick. For enquiries, please contact Helen Moloney hmoloney@clarecoco.ie .

HEALTHY CLARE

Healthy Clare Micro Fund 2024

Following the appraisal process of the 70 Healthy Clare Micro Fund 2024 applications that were received, Clare’s Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) awarded a total of 39 applicants funding to support community and voluntary groups to deliver projects that can promote health and wellbeing initiatives throughout Co. Clare.

The Micro Fund supports projects under two outcomes.

1. Outcome 1: Promoting Healthy Weight
2. Outcome 2: Promoting Positive Mental Health Promotion

Summary of projects funded.

Outcome Area	Projects Awarded	Municipal Districts
Outcome 1: Promoting Healthy Weight	16 projects	-11 West Clare (includes North Clare)
Outcome 2: Promoting Positive Mental Health Promotion	23 projects	- 16 Ennis -8 Killaloe, -4 Shannon

Healthy Clare Micro Fund Programme 2024: Project Showcase



With support from the Healthy Clare 2024 Micro Fund, North Clare Burren Volleyball Club coaches have completed a 3 day Fitness and Wellness camp with young female players. The emphasis of the project is toward empowering the young athletes to make healthier personal choices across diet, fitness and mental health. It is hoped that these new skills can transition across their home and school life and prepare them to make healthier choices consistently.



With support from the Healthy Clare 2024 Micro Fund, The Common Knowledge held the Rekindle of Lost Skills Festival during August 2024. This intergenerational festival focuses on rekindling and celebrating traditional arts, skills and practices which are often held by older people. The festival provides an opportunity for the sharing of memories and stories and serves as a way to connect communities, while supporting individuals to live more sustainable lives.

Irish Mens Shed Awards 2024

The Healthy Clare Coordinator spoke at this months Irish Mens Shed Awards, which was organised by the Irish Mens Shed Association. The event, held in the Old Ground Hotel, acknowledges the achievements of the sheds in supporting men’s mental health, wellbeing and connection through a love of working side by side.



CORPORATE SERVICES

Freedom of Information & Data Protection:

Previous years and 2024 to date - statistics to 27th August 2024	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Freedom of Information Internal Review Applications	6	13	8	4	3
Appeals with Information Commissioner	1	4	2	4	1
Data Access Requests – Subject Access Request	5	6	10	10	11
Data Requests – Erasure Request	0	1	1	2	0
Data Access Requests – Third Party Access Requests e.g. Gardaí	20	27	27	29	19

Register of Electors

In advance of notification of a general Election, the Franchise Section continue to review the Register of Electors to ensure records are up to date. In this regard, we are requesting the public to check their details are correct on www.checktheregister.ie or by emailing register@clarecoco.ie.

Mayoral Reception for Archbishop Séamus Horgan

Clare County Council hosted a Mayoral Reception in Áras Contae an Chláir on Thursday, 1st August, which recognised the distinguished appointment of Right Reverend Monsignor Séamus Horgan as the Apostolic Nuncio to South Sudan and Titular Archbishop of Ard Sratha in Tyrone.

The new Archbishop Horgan, from Tobartescain in Ennis, attended St Flannan’s College and was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Michael Harty 30 years ago, in 1994, in the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul, Ennis. He served with distinction in his appointments at local level in Bodyke and Roscrea in the Killaloe diocese, and in his various appointments the world over since he entered the diplomatic service.

The ceremony was attended by clergy in Ennis, Bishop Fintan Monahan and Bishop Emeritus Willie Walsh, his sister Anne and his brother Liam. The Mayoral Reception was proposed by Cllr Gabriel Keating and seconded by Cllr Mary Howard at the July County Council meeting.

Leas-Chathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr Mary Howard, said of Archbishop Horgan, “On behalf of everyone in County Clare I want to congratulate Séamus on this distinguished appointment. Breckan, Cronan, Finian, Flannan, Senan, Tola and all of our saints in County Clare are looking down on him and wishing him well in his important diplomatic work as Apostolic Nuncio. We are all very proud of Archbishop Horgan and wish him every success in his new role.”

Chief Executive of Clare County Council, Pat Dowling, added, “In Clare County Council, we have the privilege as the civic authority to welcome many Ambassadors to our county. It is all the more special when we can welcome home one of our own as a Papal Nuncio and an Ambassador for the Holy See to South Sudan. I congratulate Archbishop Horgan on his Ordination and his appointment as Apostolic Nuncio and I assure him of the very best wishes, prayers and civic support of the Executive and Elected Members of Clare County Council in his mission ahead.”



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 July and August 2024 included:

- Clare County Council celebrates Heritage Week 2024
- Over €800,000 awarded to projects in Clare as part of Community Climate Action Programme
- Mayoral Reception held to recognise distinguished appointment of His Excellency Archbishop Séamus Horgan
- Civic Reception held to honour Mayor of Derry and District of Strabane Cllr Lilian Seenoi-Barr
- Book of Condolence opened for the late Edna O’Brien
- Homecoming celebration for victorious Clare hurling team
- New vehicles for Clare County Fire and Rescue Service
- Anti-dumping initiative rolled out at Ennis parks.

Social Media

The Communications Office monitors and updates social media channels with creative content to enhance engagement with the public and maintain awareness of the work of the Council.

In the period 1st July-26th August 2024, the Communications Office:

- Posted 170 times on Facebook, with total followers now 20,430.
- Posted 130 times on X (formerly Twitter), with total followers now at 8,690.
- Instagram followers are now 3,677.

(Statistics accurate as of 27/08/2024)

Summer Tour of Clare 2024

Clare FM's Summer Tour of Clare in association with Clare County Council saw Morning Focus broadcast live from towns and villages in each of Clare's four Municipal Districts during July and August.

The outside broadcasts highlighted a range of initiatives and activities in communities across Clare. The broadcasts delved into what each local area has to offer in terms of amenities, jobs, local talent and sport, and spoke with representatives from business, tourism and arts, as well as Council staff and local public representatives.

Outside broadcasts took place in Kilrush, Shannon, Ennis, Clonlara, Scarriff and Ennistymon as part of the series. The listenership for the three-hour broadcasts was 44,000 listeners. Online podcast listens exceeded 17,000. Social media reach for the outside broadcast posts exceeded 47,000.



Communications Officer



Claire Gallagher joins Clare County Council as Communications Officer from 2nd September. Claire previously worked at Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) where she was the Press and Communications Officer and also served as Acting Director of Marketing and Communications last year.

A former award winning regional and national journalist in both broadcast and print, Claire has led teams in the private and public sector in the area of public relations, crisis communications, event management and marketing campaigns.

Claire founded Ennis based Galocan Media in 2016, a successful media consultancy and crisis management company working with Government, semi-state bodies, environmental organisations, international clients and companies, SMEs, local and regional businesses, community and charitable organisations, national and international events, and individuals.

Claire is now looking forward to the next chapter in her career, as Clare County Council offers her the opportunity to support the work of the local authority charged with serving her adopted county of 25 years.

EVENT TO ACKNOWLEDGE OUTGOING COUNCILLORS



Outgoing Cllr Cillian Murphy.



Outgoing Cllr Gerry Flynn.



Outgoing Cllr Pat McMahon.



A lunch was held in the Old Ground Hotel in Ennis in July to honour the outgoing Members of Clare County Council. They were presented with certificates in acknowledgement of their commitment and service to County Clare. Pictured with the

Cathaoirleach Cllr Alan O'Callaghan, Chief Executive Pat Dowling and members of the Council executive are (l-r, holding certificates): outgoing Cllrs Cillian Murphy, Pat McMahon, PJ Ryan, Ann Norton and Gerry Flynn.



Outgoing Cllr Ann Norton.



Outgoing Cllr PJ Ryan.

CULTURAL SERVICES - LIBRARY, ARTS, MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

Clare County Library



Work is progressing on the new library and art gallery in Ennis with various trades engaged in the finishing stages of the project – M&E, IT, and fit out.

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.

1,737 E-Books	3,928 E-Audiobooks	1,389 E-Magazines
370 Online Courses	2,263 Pressreader	53 Transparent Languages

Marketing & Social media

Clare Libraries hosted Clare FM's Morning Focus in Shannon Library for their outside broadcast visit to the Shannon Municipal District. The children’s librarian spoke on the show about the activities and services available in the libraries of the MD - Shannon, Newmarket on Fergus and Sixmilebridge Libraries. Other librarians also spoke on Clare FM in relation to initiatives in the libraries of the Ennis and Killaloe MDs. Two press releases were published about the Little Library Book Bag and the Summer Stars Reading

	Total Followers	New Followers	Post Reach/ Impressions	Post Likes
	7,797	31	66,901	931
	2,191	N/A	4,888	237

Library Activities in Figures

Total number of in branch events	157
Total audiences at in branch events	1,919
Total number of outreach events	7
Total audiences at outreach events	20
Total number of deliveries	5
Total number of class novels issued	1

Right to Read



There were a number of events held for Heritage Week in Clare Libraries in August in Kilrush & Shannon Libraries:

- Patrick Galvin gave a talk about piloting ships as a career, his connections to Scattery Island, and the strong piloting tradition there. This presentation tied in with the theme of connections and networks that are central to Heritage Week 2024 and was hosted with thanks to the Scattery Island Heritage Group.
- Storyteller, historian, and De Valera Library staff member Ciara Carew held a storytelling event in Library and Dr David Fleming from UL gave a talk on genealogy and local history in Scariff Library.



Children's services in the libraries have been busy with two key programmes running; Summer Stars and the Little Library Book Bag. A total of 1,905 children have signed up to the Summer Stars Reading Programme this year and have been busy attending lots of free events including workshops on biodiversity, creative writing, visual art, yoga, history, chess and STEAM. Children who are starting school in September have also been busy attending the Little Library Story Times and collecting their Little Library Book Bag. A total of 416 children have visited the library to collect a bag so far. It is anticipated that a marketing campaign in the Autumn will see an increase in numbers as parents prepare for the new school year.

Healthy Ireland



Sixmilebridge – Active Storytime and Yoga with Colette Nagle.

There were a number of Healthy Ireland events in libraries throughout Clare this summer. Events included a talk on Healthy Homes in Scariff, a talk on wellbeing in Killaloe and active story times in Ennistymon and Sixmilebridge libraries. Earlier in the summer there were a number of yoga sessions held in Scariff Library for class groups and for parents and babies.

Colette Nagle, yoga instructor delivered yoga classes to 3 different groups of children in Scariff Library. 17 children from Leapfrog Creche, 25 children from Scariff Primary school and 8 children from Scariff Book Club attended the classes. Feedback from both parents and children was very positive. The children see the library as a welcoming space, where they can read and relax, and also benefit from classes, which aids their health and wellbeing. Colette also delivered 2 parent/baby yoga classes in Scariff Library.

Creative Ireland

- The launch of ‘The Time Machine’, a Creative Ireland Climate Action project, took place on August 17th and ran until August 25th. It has been developed by and embedded within the community of Miltown Malbay. The Immersive exhibition imagined a home of the future by rooting itself in a home of the past. A bladesmith workshop took place in Ennistymon with Sam Gleeson of Thisiswhatwedo, where 4 students were funded for a full day masterclass during Heritage Week. These skills once intrinsic to daily life are now in danger of being lost. This workshop ignited an interest in learning these skills.
- The Ennis Women’s Community Group, as part of the ‘Birds of a Feather’ Shared Island project, met with the Curator at Clare Museum to view examples of Clare embroidery and

patterns donated by Florence Vere O’Brien, and to learn about the setting up of the Clare Embroidery School. The community group plan to create a body of work to exhibit at the museum in 2025 inspired by the collection.

- The 6-week ‘Taking Creative Control - Managing your Menopause through Art’ workshops based at Mna Le Cheile Women’s Shed in Shannon finished in July. The workshop enabled women to explore their personal journey of menopause and perimenopause through Art. The feedback from the participants was very positive.
- Creative Ireland Clare was awarded additional funding from Creative Ireland for two projects to be completed by the end of 2024.
 - (i) Ennis Voices for Autism will facilitate a series of workshops with young members of EVA with artist Evelyn Sorohan, to engage creatively and inform programming for Cruinniú na nÓg 2025.
 - (ii) Clare Older People’s Council and Clare Youth Services will take part in an Intergenerational Climate Action Engagement project in October.

Local Studies

Document from the newly acquired Power Collection

The Local Studies librarian has added the Power Collection to the Clare Libraries and Archives collection. This collection contains several materials relating to the harbour at Clarecastle, notably the Clarecastle harbour trustees register of shipping. This is a very important source for the economic history of Clare, documenting imports and exports out of the county through one of its most important ports. Clare Libraries would like to thank John Power for donating the material, and Eric Shaw for facilitating the donation. The second tranche of entries from the 1821 census was published on the Clare Libraries website, and the 1821 Freeholders list is now fully transcribed.

Clare Archives

A donation of archaeological survey of Ireland maps of County Clare was made over the summer.

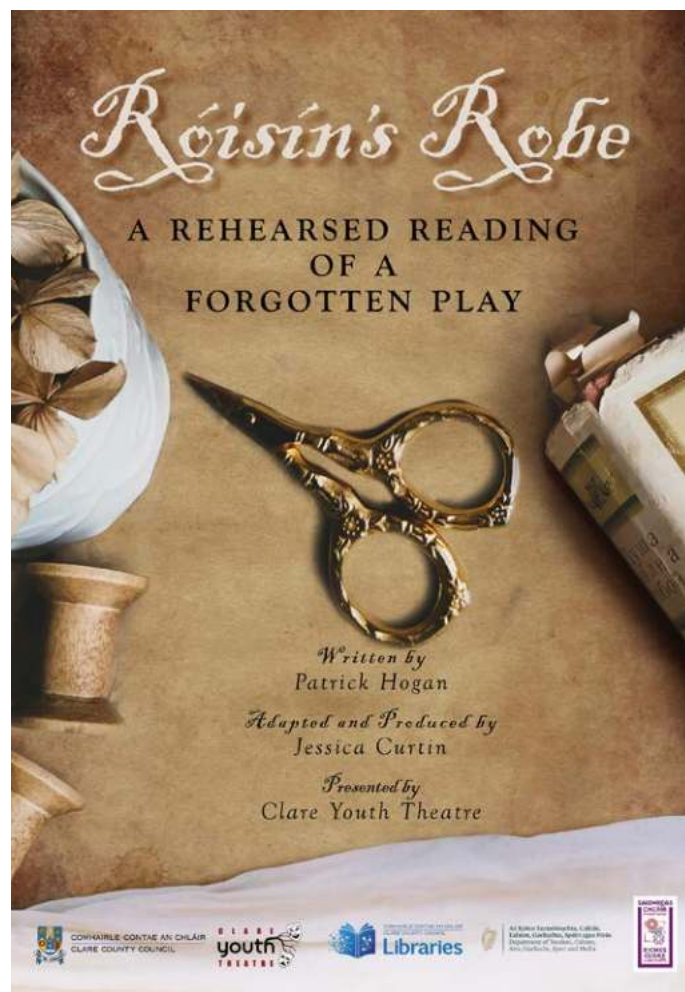
The archivist continued to catalogue the Barrett Collection. There were the usual archival queries regarding private collections and local authority collections in Clare County Council and for Our Lady’s. The archivist is currently clearing out and doing an inventory of accessions in the processing room in Beechpark. The scanning of HV MacNamara material has commenced. The Cumann na mBan exhibition has moved to Ennis Library.

Clare Arts Office

- Clare Artist in Schools completed residencies in 17 Primary schools and 2 Secondary schools throughout the county from Ennistymon to Barefield and Scariff to Lahinch.
- A total of 16 Embrace Arts and Disability programmes took place around Clare in 2024 including two Embrace one-to-one programmes. Organisations that took part in the programme this year include the HSE, National Learning Network, Brothers of Charity, Irish Wheelchair Association, St Annes School, Ennis voices for autism, Dulick Centre, and Clare CAMHS.
- Nine hundred people attended the Riches of Clare weekly Concerts in glór and Feakle featuring 35 musicians.
- Six exhibitions took place in Ennis, Scariff and Kilkee. Three artists were supported through the professional development scheme.
- David Hope from Shannon was commissioned to create new music through the Per Cent for Art Scheme.
- Two Arts in Clare slots took place on Clare FM.
- The Arts Office assisted seven TV production shootings at Clarecastle, Kilkee, Seafield, Poulmabrone, and Doolin and attended the annual WRAP update meeting.
- The Arts in the Community programme continued in St. Joseph's Hospital, Ennis and in Raheen Hospital.

Clare Youth Theatre presented Róisín's Robe as part of the Decade of Centenaries programme with 50 people attending.

Cultúrlann Sweeney Kilkee hosted three variety shows, nine Civic Trust Talks, two concerts, two craft fairs, an art camp and eight films in July and August.



Arts Social Media

Facebook 19/7/24-23/8/24					
	Post reach	Post engagement	New Page likes	New Page followers	Total followers
Clare Arts Office	3,304	417	1	3	3,318
Cultúrlann Sweeney	8,789	1,156	7	13	2,083
EASI Studios	7	0	1	1	147
Tulla Stables Artist Studios	6	0	1	1	661
CYT - Clare Youth Theatre	45	2	4	5	580
Riches of Clare	738	70	3	5	2,868
Clare culture night	707	44	1	4	1,280
Embrace Arts Programme	5	0	0	0	572
Arts In Clare Group					3,301
Clare trad Group					2,693
Instagram 24/7/24-22/8/24					
Followers	Accounts reached				
817	195				

Clare Museum

- Local librarian Ciara Carew held a story telling event, Stories Through Generations in Clare Musuem for Heritage Week. Children, along with their parents & grandparents, listened to tales of Máire Rua, Cu Chulainn, Cill Stíphín, Jackie the Lantern & the Banshee. The Museum curator held a number of pop-up Museum events throughout libraries this summer.
- To coincide with the 50th anniversary of the Fleadh Nua, the Liverpool Céilí Band shared its history with an exhibition at Clare Museum, containing photographs and anecdotes from the band’s accomplished career and some of the musical instruments used by the band. A group of 19 international students, along with 2 of their tutors from the Clare Language School, visited and explored the Museum while completing an assignment based on their visit.
- A volunteer has been enlisted to produce a brochure outlining the museum’s education and outreach services. When finished, the brochure will be distributed to relevant organisations.
- A public talk was held on the Derreen Hoard from Maeve Sikora of the National Museum of Ireland.
- There were 20 social media posts on Facebook, and a new blog entry was posted on items relating to the West Clare Railway, on the website.
- The museum’s education officer participated in a film and video for social media during the month.

KILLALOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Civic Reception for the Mayor of Derry & District of Strabane, Cllr Lilian Seenoi-Barr



On 2nd August, Killaloe Municipal District hosted a Civic Reception for the Mayor of Derry & District of Strabane, Cllr Lilian Seenoi-Barr. Cllr Seenoi-Barr, the Kenyan Irish political and community activist known for her commitment to social justice, equality, and human rights, was Elected as Mayor of Derry & District of Strabane in June. Born in Kenya, Lilian’s early life was shaped by the challenges and inequities she observed in her Maasai community, sparking a passion for advocacy that would guide her life’s work. In her late twenties, Lilian migrated to Derry, where she quickly became an influential figure in local politics and community activism.

In recognition of Cllr Lilian-Seenoi-Barr’s Election as Mayor of Derry & District of Strabane; her raising awareness about issues such as racial inequality, Nighttime economy, Women’s Health and Housing; and the continuation of North-South socio-economic and political cooperation evident in our Municipal District by the presence of Waterways Ireland Regional Office in Scariff and tourism initiatives on Lough Derg, R. Shannon L. Erne and the Ulster Canal navigation system, the Elected Members of Killaloe Municipal District consider it appropriate that a Civic Reception was awarded to Cllr Lilian-Seenoi-Barr.

A large gathering attended the civic reception in the Municipal District offices and marked the first occasion that a MD in County Clare hosted such an award.



IMPLEMENTATION OF KILLALOE - BALLINA TOWN ENHANCEMENT AND MOBILITY STRATEGY

Killaloe Courthouse

Killaloe Courthouse, derelict and vacant for several years since its last use, has been acquired by Clare County Council, which is now seeking how best to re-use and reimagine the building and grounds. The building is a Protected Structure and its location, within the heritage town centre of Killaloe, provides a key opportunity to revitalise and reimagine the building, while also encouraging footfall and activity to this area of the town centre.

The building was identified by Clare County Council as an Opportunity Site in the Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Strategy. In elaborating on the potential for the re-use of the Courthouse and lands, the Strategy indicated that a feasibility study on the re-use of the building was required. There is a necessity to bring the Courthouse back to a viable and economically sustainable use.

In July, following the receipt of Town and Village Renewal Grant funding, Hourigan Drake Architects were appointed to undertake a Feasibility Study on the proposed re-use of the Courthouse. To coincide with National Heritage Week a public consultation event and tour of the Courthouse was organised over two days by Killaloe MD to invite the public to the disused Courthouse and obtain views on how best it should be re-used.



Scarriff Rural Regeneration and Development Project

In May Killaloe MD received notification of the awarding of €8,765,000 to Clare County Council by the Department of Rural and Community Development for our Category 1 Scarriff RRDF project. Clare County Council will match fund this to bring the total project value to €10,956,000. The project is located in the town centre comprises of 3 elements, all integrated.

- i) The renovation of an existing vacant derelict 2 story building and rear premises in Scarriff Town centre and their conversion to a Community & Enterprise Hub
- ii) The development of a greenfield site to the rear of the building to use as a carpark associated with the Community & Enterprise Hub and for car-parking use as part of wider enhancements to Scarriff Town Centre.
- iii) Enhancement of public realm of Market Square (town centre) of Scarriff

Due diligence with the Department continued in July and August as did the commencement of procurement for contractor to undertake the redevelopment of the Community &

Enterprise Hub and construction of the Car-park. It is anticipated that works on the buildings and associated car-park could commence as early as November and once completed, in line with the request from Community groups, the works to Market Square will subsequently commence in 2025.

July / August Projects Killaloe MD;

During the months of May and June Killaloe MD staff were involved in the following Projects

1. Climate Change Works at Ayle, works carried out with a temporary diversion in place. The existing road level is being raised 700mm to prevent flooding to this section of road at Ayle, Feakle, Co.Clare
2. Overlay works on the R-469 in Quin Village
3. Overlay works on the R-469 in Quin Village
4. Progress works at Scarriff National School 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: communityresponseforum@clarecoco.ie. Our Local Authority Integration Team can be reached at integration@clarecoco.ie.

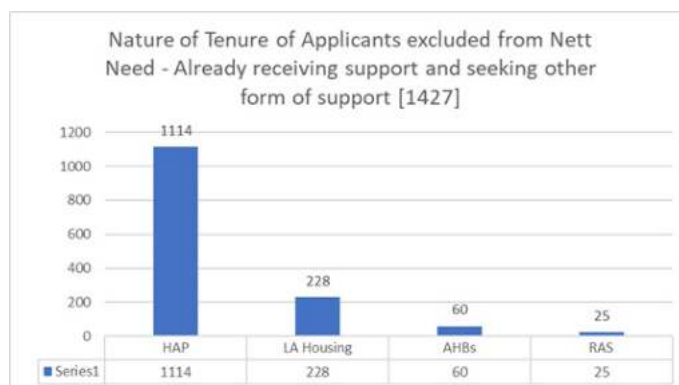
During July and August we have nominated successful applicants for the first three houses in the Affordable Housing Scheme in Shannon with sales due to close in coming weeks. Draft Traveller Accommodation Program has gone on public display with submissions welcome upto 27th September. Invitations have issued for new membership of both our Social Directorate SPC and Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee and initial meetings of both will be scheduled once membership is finalised and ratified by this Council.

Social Housing Demand -

The highest demand throughout the county remains for 1 and 2-bedroomed properties. There are 2,192 applicant households (77%) who have a requirement for this property type.

Current Housing need as of 21/08/2024

Total Households on List	2,857	
Transfer Applicants (see below)		1,427
Net Need	1,430	



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

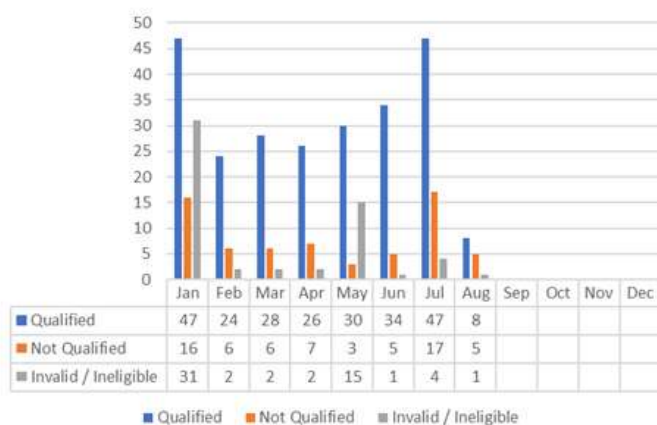
Count of FIRST AREA OF CHOICE	BEDS APPROVED			
	1 and 2 beds	3 beds	4 and 5 beds	Total
ENNIS	951	195	72	1218
SHANNON	175	36	15	226
CLARECASTLE	150	27	9	186
INAGH/ENNISTYMON/LAHINCH	119	25	6	150
KILRUSH	90	26	8	124
FEAKLE/SCARIFF/WHITEGATE	94	27	3	124
MEELICK/PARTEEN/WESTBURY	69	27	12	108
MILTOWN MALBAY/MULLAGH/QUILTY	72	10	1	83
KILKEE/CROSS/CARRIGAHOLT	67	14	1	82
COROFIN/RUAN	59	17	1	77
NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS	52	20	4	76
KILLALOE	50	14	2	66
LISDOONVARNA/BALLYVAUGHAN	47	12	3	62
SIXMILEBRIDGE	42	11	6	59
COORACLARE/DOONBEG	34	10	5	49
TULLA/KILKISHEN/BROADFORD	35	6	4	45
CLONLARA	25	7	2	34
KILDYSART/BALLYNACALLY	21	4	3	28

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QUIN	16	8	2	26
KILMIHIL	9	5	2	16
KILMALEY	9	2		11
KILFENORA	6	1		7
Grand Total	2,192	504	161	2,857

Newly Qualified Applicants

Decisions 2024



priorities and procedures for allocating properties to approved applicants on our housing list. Included within the 38 new tenancies were households :

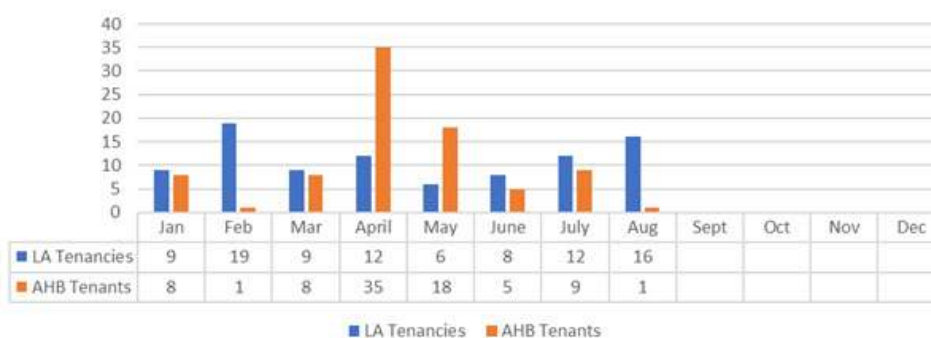
At risk of homelessness/Homeless	6
Succession Tenancies	3
Medical	11
Involuntary Sharing	2
Social housing transfer (Downsizing)	1
Social housing transfer (overcrowding)	3
Financial	11
Unfit	1
Total	38

Housing Allocations

During July and August 2024, a total of 38 new tenancies were created. Our Social Housing Allocation Scheme sets out the

Properties delivered by Approved Housing Bodies (AHB's)	10
Clare County Council Housing Stock [incl Leases]	25
Properties acquired by CCC (tenant in situ scheme)	3

New Tenancies 2024
Total 176



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



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

There is a noticeable increase in refusal rate from clients availing of Emergency Accommodation through our Homeless Action Team, and from members of Traveller Community showing unwillingness to accommodate vacancies within our Traveller Specific Accommodation and other locations. Currently almost 25% of Traveller Specific accommodation [houses and bays] remain vacant across 9 sites county wide. These concerns will need to be addressed through incoming LTACC and Regional Homeless Forum.

Tenant Purchase Incremental Scheme

There remains significant interest in the LA Tenant Purchase Incremental Scheme. We currently have 19 open cases at various stages of the process of which up to 6 more may finalise sales in 2024. The sale of three properties under the tenant purchase scheme have been completed to date in 2024.

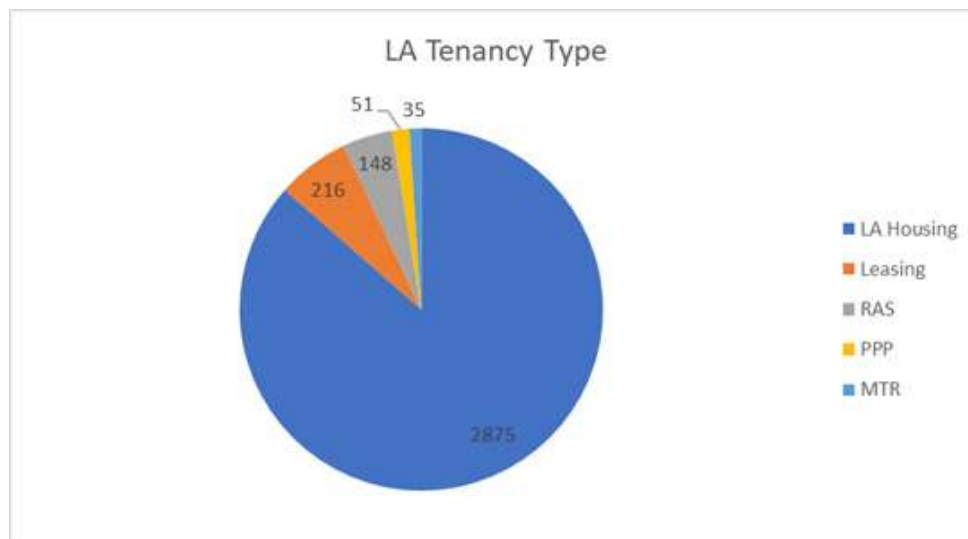
Having consulted with elected members in relation to maintaining our newer stock we have agreed that properties purchased or built since 1st January 2016 will not be available for sale under this scheme. This can be reviewed at end of current Housing Delivery Plan period in 2026. We have also agreed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

The Department issued a Circular in December 2023 advising of small changes to the scheme including a reduction in minimum income eligibility and adding further income sources as eligible, including certain state pensions and disability payments.

Housing Tenancies:

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

21st August 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



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.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Vacancies:

Vacant Stock	Ennis MD	West Clare MD	Shannon MD	Killaloe MD	Total
Traveller Accom.	3	7	1	0	11
Derelict Properties	0	0	0	0	0
Projects	3	4	1	2	10
Casual Vacancies	17	12	4	3	36
TOTAL	23	20	6	5	54

	Total year to date	22nd of June to 23rd of Aug
ASB Complaints recd	554	105
Housing Inspections	1,063	9
Referrals to TSS (including Tusla)	41	3
Tenancy Notifications/Warnings issued	50	12
Abandonment Notices issued	12	1
Keys collected from Casual Vacancies	32	9
Repossession Orders	2	1

Estate Management

The Estate Management Team continue to undertake regular routine and response calls to tenants, dealing with ASB complaints 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 housing inspections for the period up to end of August and a total of 1,063 inspections have been carried out year to date.

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.

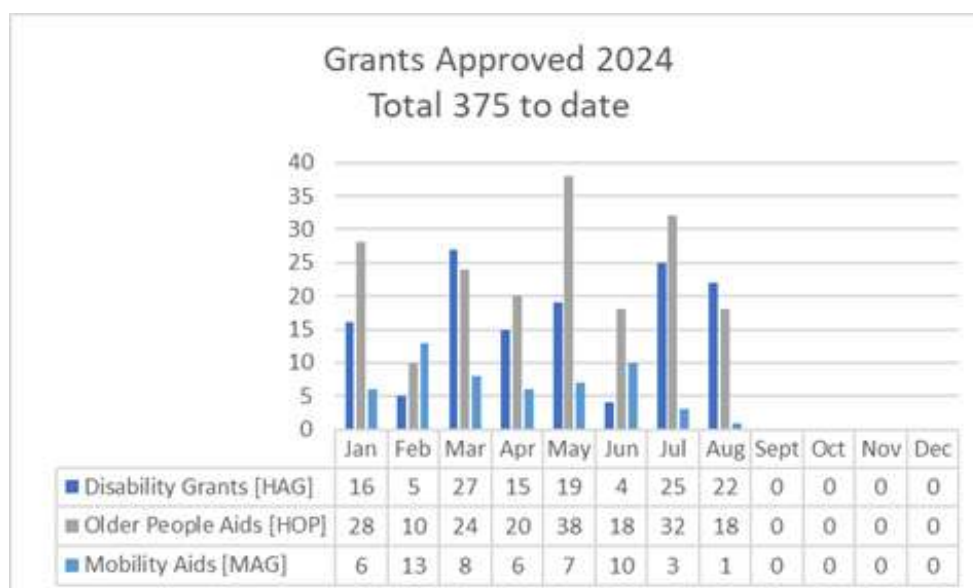
The team carry out continued patrols of Local Authority housing estates and Traveller sites and have a very visible presence to manage and mitigate against complaints of antisocial behaviour. The team also engage proactively with tenants to help prevent anti-social behaviour, facilitate the daily patrol of local authority sites, arrange specific meetings with tenants as well as engaging with local communities. 1,141 patrols were carried out for the period in question. The working hours of the team are flexible to meet required need, involving working after hours and weekends as the need dictates. The team can be contacted out of office hours, should the need arise, by contacting the Council Emergency Phone no. **(087) 2599568**

Private Rented inspections:

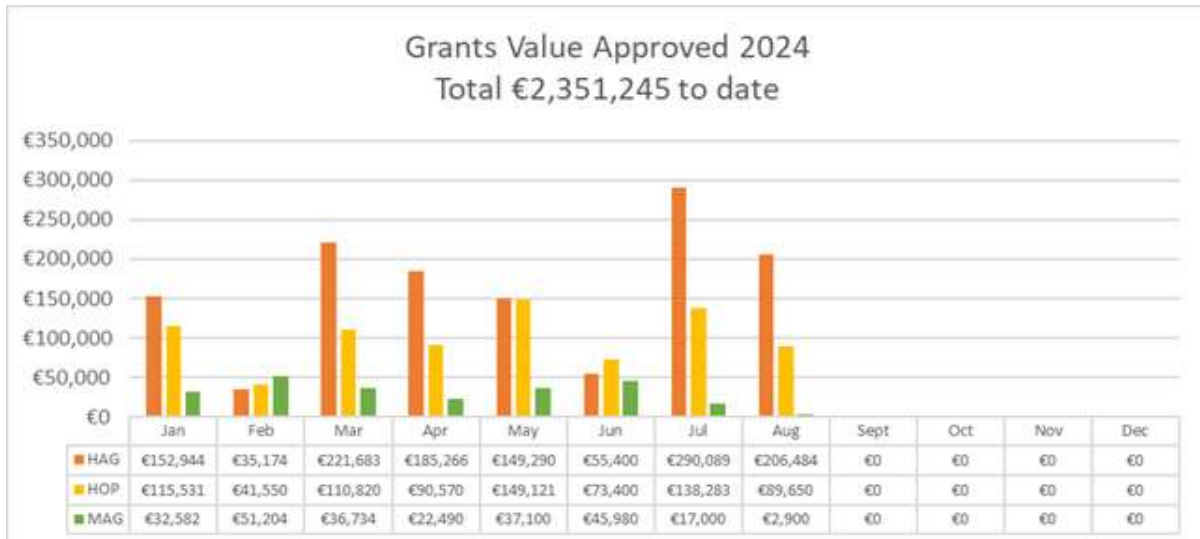
587 inspections have been carried out up August 2024. These inspections were carried out on HAP, RTB, RAS and Leased properties, as well as in response to complaints that were received. The team continue to follow up where properties do not meet the minimum rented standards.

Housing Grants:

Grants Approved to date this year:



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



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 63 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/>

Traveller Accommodation

Clare County Council continue to progress our Traveller Accommodation Programme [TAP] 2019 – 2024.

We have also commenced preparation of the next 5-year Traveller Accommodation Programmes (TAP) for adoption by 31 December 2024. The draft Traveller Accommodation

programme 2025 - 2029 is available for public inspection until 27th September 2024 at the following locations:

- Clare County Council, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.
- West Clare Municipal District, Clare County Council, Ennistymon Area Office, Ennis Road, Ennistymon, Co. Clare.
- Killaloe Municipal District, Mountshannon Road, Scarriff, Co. Clare
- Shannon Municipal District, Town Hall, Shannon, Co. Clare
- West Clare Municipal District, Town Hall, Kilrush, Co. Clare
- On Clare County Council's webpage: www.clarecoco.ie

Clare County Council invites any interested party to make a submission in writing to: The Housing Department, Clare County Council, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare or via email to travelaccm@clarecoco.ie no later than 27th September 2024.

Homeless Services [Homeless Action Team HAT]

The number of complex case presentations to the Homeless Action Team continues to increase along with the increase of households seeking emergency accommodation.

This is evident through the increased 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.

There has been a significant 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.

During this period there has been an increase in challenging behaviour, aggressive behaviour and verbal aggression being faced by staff in the HAT team.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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. This continues to prove challenging due to demand for accommodation. The Council has completed the purchase of an additional property for emergency accommodation. This will be available 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 22nd August 2024:

	Families	Adults	Dependents	Providers
Laurel Lodge	0	13	0	1
Laurel Lodge	0	7	0	0
Cusack Lodge	5	11	30	1
Westbrook	0	22	0	1
Ashford Court	11	30	12	1
Clann Nua	0	13	0	1
EA Families	2	18	11	2
EA Individuals	0	7	0	3
TOTAL	18	121	53	10

It is important to note that the above figures are not a true representation of the significant number of single and family households that have contacted the Homeless Action Team and continue to await placement within services.

Exits from Homeless Services:

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

During the period 15/06/24 to 22/08/24 the following exited from homelessness:

- Self Discharge 17
- Moved to A.H.B Housing 2
- Moved to Temp. Accommodation 3
- Admitted to hospital 1

- Excluded 6
- In Prison (on remand) 1
- Moved to independent living (with supports) 5

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. CCC DCB Team have also included a video on CCC's website on "how to make an application" to further assist homeowners in the application process. In addition, our team are available to assist with any queries homeowners may have. This Team can be contacted by email at dcb@clarecoco.ie or alternatively by phone at 065-6846385, 065-6846468 & 065-6846309.

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

CCC DCB Team are planning to hold more information evenings 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.

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



Pictured at Áras Contae an Chlair following the appointment of contractors for the construction of a new Housing Development at Gort Road, Ennis, Co. Clare. Front Row seated (left to right): Jason Murphy, Director of Service, Social Development; Noeleen Fitzgerald, Deputy Chief Executive; Alan O’Callaghan, Cathaoirleach; Patrick Gardiner, Managing Director, Coolsivna Construction Group Ltd. Back Row (left to right): Pádraig MacCormaic, Senior Executive Officer, Social Development Directorate, Adrian Headd, Senior Engineer, Social Development Directorate

Update on capital programme:

Our Capital team Housing Delivery target for 2024 is 153 units and the team is working hard to ensure this is achieved and indeed exceeded. Schemes under construction in Scarriff and Sixmilebridge are continuing to progress well. Design work is underway on a number of other social housing projects, which are at various stages of development.

Clare County Council appointed Contractors Coolsivna Construction Group Ltd. for the Construction of a new Housing Development at Gort Road, Ennis, Co. Clare on the 21st August 2024.

The 20-unit development is funded by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and is scheduled for completion in 2025 with construction expected to commence mid-September 2024.

Approved Housing Bodies

July and August was a busy period for the Approved Housing Body sector with a number of projects under construction. 3 no. 2-bed bungalows were delivered by Cluid Housing Association at Crusheen in August. Other housing units at Ennis, Quin, Shannon and Tulla are to be delivered in the next few months as outlined below. In addition, there are a number of proposals at the initial stages. Regular meetings are held with all AHBs involved in housing provision to discuss progress and achieve early delivery. Quarterly forums are also held to provide support with ongoing management, allocation policy and other matters.



Progress on Sixmilebridge project



2-bed bungalows at Crusheen provided by Cluid Housing Association



Progress on Scarriff housing development

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

SHIP Capital	No. approved	Current stage	Start Date	Completion Date
Scarriff	18	Under Construction	Q1 2023	Q3 2024
Sixmilebridge	15	Under Construction.	Q1 2023	Q3 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	Contractor Appointed.	Q3 2024	Q4 2025
Back Road, Kilrush	12	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Currently in Part VIII process.	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 3 approved by DHLGH. Approval granted by ABP. At construction tender stage.	Q4 2024	Q4 2025
Shallee Drive / Cloughleigh Rd	5	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Currently in Part VIII process.	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	Q3 2024 Q4 2024
Cluain na Laoi, Kilkishen (Circle Housing Assoc.) CALF Turnkey	16	Completed	Q1 2023	Q2 2024
Crusheen (Cluid Housing Association) 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	Q3 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 Construction	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

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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	25	Under construction: 15 units in Phase 1 10 units in Phase 2	Q1 2024 Q2 2024	Q1 2025 Q3 2025
Subtotal	203			
Total	437			

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 2,218 people accommodated in 31 multi-occupancy facilities located throughout the County this reflects a decrease of 287 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 234 homes offered resulting in an increase of 12 properties compared to figures released previously. To date our Matching & Relationship Manager has facilitated the accommodation of 450 people that were originally living in hotel and multi-occupancy facilities.

The new Government policy on changes to social welfare payments for people who are BOTP's will begin on 9th September 2024. The people impacted by these changes have received a letter from the Department of Social Protection to advise them of the changes and what it will mean for them. Posters have also been sent to the relevant accommodation centres in three languages about the changes coming in September. The changes are outlined as follows:

Changes for People Resident in Full Board State-Provided Accommodation:

- People who are resident in BOTP State-provided accommodation centres, where meals and utilities are provided, will have their social assistance payments changed.
- Standard social assistance payments will no longer be available to people while they are resident in Designated Accommodation Centres. Instead, they will be entitled to a net weekly payment of €38.80 per adult and €29.80

per child, subject to an income test. Entitlement to Child Benefit and the Working Family payment is not affected and residents continue to have access to accommodation, healthcare, and education, if needed.

- Those who are paying a contribution towards their meals will have this amount included in their new payment. They will receive their first reduced payment on Thursday 12 September. This will impact approximately 9,000 people.

Changes for Providers of Accommodation:

- To implement this new policy, the Government has made the decision to change the status of all BOTP accommodation centres under contract with the Department that are providing full board (including meals). They will become Designated Accommodation Centres (DACs).
- The relevant providers will be contacted and informed about this change, and what it means for them to have their status changed to a Designated Accommodation Centre (DAC).
- There is no change to providers' contracts or services provided, the change will impact the residents living there. Providers will continue to collect the contribution for meals from residents as before. Any other properties providers may have in contract with the Department that are not providing meals are not impacted by this change at this time.

The Department will not be in a position to facilitate moves to alternative State-contracted commercial accommodation if requested by residents because of this change. Residents will have the option to leave themselves and seek their own accommodation.

All BOTP accommodation provided by the State is temporary. When these residents leave the Designated Accommodation Centre, or if they make their own accommodation arrangements, they will be entitled to apply for full standard social welfare payments, equivalent to Irish citizens, including rent and children allowance, subject to meeting the eligibility conditions. Those residents in BOTP self-catering accommodation centres

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

where meals are not provided are not impacted by this change at this time.

The reason for this decision, taken by the Cabinet in May, is to introduce equivalence, in as far as is possible, between those beneficiaries who arrived in Ireland before and those who

arrived after 14th March this year, and who are in full board State-funded accommodation.

These changes are also necessary so that Ireland can continue to ensure a proportionate and sustainable approach to providing humanitarian support.

INTEGRATION TEAM

The Integration Team continues to hold outreach clinics in BOTP and IP accommodation centers during July and August. The National Programme of consolidation and restructuring of emergency accommodation have been a challenge for all the statutory organisation's to adapt for onward integration. The Local Authority Integration team hosted 5 Regional Community Integration forum meetings throughout the county in July with an Inaugural meeting held in Scariff. The Integration forum meeting convenes now in all Local Electoral Area's and is chaired by Brendan Boyce, Integration Co-ordinator. These provide an ideal opportunity for agencies to collaborate at a local level.

The Forum is developing a Directory of Services as a welcome to new members in our community to highlight what services they provide locally

The following agencies will be contributing to the document:

1. The Clare Immigrant Support Service
2. The Clare Sports Partnership
3. The DEASP
4. Clare Volunteer Centre
5. The Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board
6. The Clare Local Development Company
7. The Clare County Council integration team

The Team attended a Welcoming New Communities National event in Dublin Castle on the 15th of July which was addressed by Minister of State Joe O'Brien & Department of Children, Equality, Diversity, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) this was an ideal opportunity to network and discuss local issues at a national level.



Padraig McMahon, Councillor Joe Garrihy & Fiona Cahill

Fiona Cahill from the LAIT team attended the official opening of Ballyvaughan Community Field on Sunday 11th August. Facilities include Flood Lit Exercise Track & All Weather Multi Use Games Area. Event which was very well attended by all in the Ballyvaughan community, including Ukrainians and International Protection applicants from Drumcreehy House.



Councillor Joe Garrihy, Fiona Cahill & Robert Wainwright
(Ballyvaughan Community Development Group)



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Fiona Cahill from the LAIT team attended the Discovering Ukraine Festival on Saturday 17th August which was hosted by Clare Local Development Company and held in the Pavilion in Lisdoonvarna. A big turn out on the day with many Ukrainians traveling from all over Ireland to attend this fantastic display of Ukrainian talent.



Wednesday 28th August – Fiona Cahill and Padraig McMahon from the LAIT team were delighted to have Sean O Murchadha from Conradh na Gaelige join them at the Clare Lakelands Hotel in Scariff to promote cultural diversity through Irish.



SPORTS & RECREATION



Active Ennis Leisure Complex

Gym & Pool Report

Intensive Swim Weeks

Intensive Swim Weeks were held for Children over 4 years of age and ran for each week in July. Lessons were held Monday to Friday and will also be held for the first 3 weeks of August. These intensive swim lessons help children already doing lessons to maintain and improve their water confidence, while it is an opportunity for children new to lessons to build their swimming and water confidence.



Clare Vs Cork and Homecoming Tim Smythe Park
With Clare playing Cork in the All-Ireland hurling final, Active Ennis Tim Smythe Park hosted a big screen for fans of Clare hurling that did not travel to the game as a means of watching the game with brilliant atmosphere and excitement. A large crowd showed up to see the game and witnessed a great victory for Clare after extra time to take home Hurling's biggest prize.

After a Magnificent Clare victory, on Monday the 22nd of July the day after the All-Ireland hurling final Active Ennis Tim Smythe Park hosted the homecoming for the Clare hurlers. A massive crowd was present, and the team were greeted with a hero's welcome. Marty Morrissey was MC for the night and a carnival atmosphere was present in the park and around the town of Ennis.



Dylan O’Brien representing Ireland at Lifesaving World Championships

Dylan O’Brien who is a Pool Lifeguard at the Active Ennis Leisure Complex has been selected to represent Ireland in the Lifesaving World Championships. The Lifesaving World Championships 2024 (LWC 2024) are scheduled to take place from 23 August to 9 September 2024 on the Gold Coast in Australia. The event will be hosted by Surf Life Saving Queensland, with pool events at the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre, Southport, and ocean/beach events at Kurrawa Beach. It is a great honor for Dylan to be selected for Ireland and we wish him the best.



Football Report Active Ennis Leisure Complex.

Total Football for June was 17,009, which was less compared to May at 20,823. The Average Football for June was 567, this was 19% lower than May which was 672. The highest total recorded football was on Saturday 8th of June (968) which was the day swim lessons were being booked by parents for the September term.

The lowest recorded Football was on Sunday 30th of June (248) which may be explained by nice weather (16 degrees) and people choosing to be outdoors. The overall lower football in June may be explained by lessons finishing up and less School Lessons with holidays starting as can be seen by numbers football steadily decreased towards the end of the month.

John Carey completes 4 Marathons in 4 Days

Duty Manager John Carey completed the Extreme North Quadrathon in Inishowen Peniulsala in Donegal in August. Four marathons in four days 26.2 miles per marathon totaling 105 miles. Day 1 saw John go from Moville to Malin Town, Day 2 was around Malin Head, Day 3 Malin town to Bunrana and Day 4 Bunrana to Moville. A Great achievement.

Classes

Class numbers for our “Body Blast”, “Aqua Aerobics” and “Lunch Crunch” remained steady throughout July and August. Many instructors continued to rent the studio throughout the summer and many more classes are returning in September such as Pilates, Step Aerobics, Evening Aqua Aerobics and Yoga. We continue to have a lot of interest from Instructors in renting our studio and have a wide variation of Classes. Instructors/practitioners can rent the hall using our online booking system.

Insert image Body Blast

Teen Gym

Teen Gym remains very popular. During August Teens can use the Gym facilities in the morning and afternoon from 11am to 1pm on weekdays. These extended hours finished at the end of August due to the end of school holidays. The usual Teen Gym hours remain. Teen Gym remains very popular for young gym users and helps them get used to a gym environment.



Football Report Active Ennis Leisure Complex.

Total football for July was 14,112. In July the highest total recorded football was on Wednesday July 3rd (641). The lowest recorded Football was on Sunday 21st of July (177). The overall lower football in July compared to June (17,009) may be explained by not having any lessons except for intensive swim weeks, which generally have less numbers, and it being holiday season with regular customers going on holidays.

Lees Road

16,731 vehicles entered the 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 additional seating installed in Northeast 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



General Updates

- The Clare LSP team have been busy delivering inclusive camps this summer.

Schools & Youth

- Borrowing of playground markings and sportshall athletics packs by primary schools will resume in September when schools are back
- We have been delivering teen girls programmes throughout the summer across the county as part of Sport Ireland's HER Moves initiative
- A brand-new teen girls yoga programme commenced on July 26th in Ennis in conjunction with Namaste Youth Yoga. This programme will run for 6 weeks and there are 8 girls taking part.

Education & Training

- Season of respect will continue from September onwards with 5 new clubs signing up for the level 1 course and 3 level 1 clubs signing up for level 2 so far.
- Season of respect education workshops for tutors will take place in September and will allow for the season of respect programme to be introduced to national schools around the county from October onwards.
- There is also a workshop series being developed in Season of respect for Referees around the county across a wide variety of sports due to launch in the coming

months.

- Plans are underway for a coach education series of workshops and practical events to be held over the autumn winter months and will be launched soon.
- Safeguarding and sports first aid courses will also be underway again from September onwards. A full list of our upcoming safeguarding courses from September - December 2024 is now on our website.

Sports Inclusion

1. Inclusive gymnastics with Ennis Gymnastics Club is now ongoing on Friday evenings. There are 50 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 have commenced summer surfing sessions in Lahinch with 18 children with autism taking part.
7. Ennis Eagles rugby (Ennis Rugby club) have completed a 4-week pilot programme for children with a disability.
8. We ran a Try Snorkel for 8 children with a disability and 8 adults with a disability on Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd August. This will be a joint venture with Kilkee Waterworld, Kilkee Sub Aqua Club and Burren Sub Aqua Club. This was a great success which will lead to more sessions in the future.
9. Our inclusive summer camps are still ongoing with our FAI Down Syndrome camp on August 20th – 22nd left.
10. We have completed Derg Athletics club camp where we had a brilliant 3 days with 22 children taking part in the camp. We had Clare Comets Basketball camp the week of July 29th with 20 children participating while our ASD Cúl Camp was the biggest camp of the summer between August 6th – 8th where we had 60 children and over 40 coaches and volunteers as part of the camp in Cusack Park. This year was extra special as Liam McCarthy cup and some Clare players came to take some photos with the children.

Older Adults

1. 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.
2. An activator pole walking programme in Killaloe with 12 participants is has finished and one has now commenced in conjunction with Kilrush Family Resource Centre.

Active Communities

- Following on from our successful Women in Sport Couch to 5km in Whitegate, forty ladies have registered to take part in a five-week run and resistance training programme to continue their progress.
- We had a very positive week for Her Outdoors so far, which is taking place from August 12th to 18th. There have been 14 events held across all areas of the county, so far, which included snorkelling, open water swimming, horse-riding, sailing, rock climbing and dragon boating. All events were very successful and there was lots of positive feedback from this year's participants.
- Together with Clare Caving Club, we have secured funding to purchase additional equipment for our new women in sport caving programme. CSP will fund their membership with the NGB and Clare Caving Club (CCC) for one year, and they will join CCC on their monthly caving expedition, growing their club membership and female participation in a male-dominated sport.
- The Her Moves Teen Girls Programmes are still underway with Beach Volleyball and Surfing taking place next week.
- September will see the return of the men on the move programmes. The two new courses will take place in Lahinch and Ennis with a lot of interest being shown already.
- Our 6-week open water swimming programmes are currently ongoing, in conjunction with Clare Water Safety, and have commenced this month in 5 different locations – Miltown Malbay, Cappa, Doonbeg, Kilkee and Ballyvaughn. We have 77 in total registered for these programmes.
- Eimear met with Shannon Athletics club recently to discuss steps towards improving athletic resources and opportunities in Shannon.
- We are hoping to deliver a Couch to 5K initiative on the new 800m gravel track that has been put in place at Shannon Athletics Club.
- We have launched a series of beginner swimming lessons at the Shannon Swimming and Leisure Centre for children aged 5 to 12. Some of the children participating in this program have been referred by Tusla and the Shannon Family Resource Centre, highlighting our commitment to making sports accessible to all members of the community.
- In partnership with Kilrush RFC, we have recently introduced a tag rugby programme targeting teenage girls aged 13 and up. The program has been well-received.
- Eimear has been actively building and strengthening connections with key stakeholders in both Shannon and Kilrush sports hubs.

West Clare Links Project:

- 3 active participants

Club Development

- The small club grant scheme applications have all now been processed and scored. The successful clubs will be informed after the August board meeting.
- We have been helping with the setup of 2 more clubs in Clare this month including the new Kilrush Cricket Club which will play its first test match on August 24th supported by Cricket Munster Development officers.

Minority Communities

- The new Sports Development Officer appointed for Minority Communities, Eimear, has just recently commenced working.

ESF+ Sport4Empowerment Programme

- Seven traveller men are 4 weeks into a pilot with Swim Ireland, going from not being swimming 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. It's still to be finalised as we are developing a specific programme but will be hopefully running towards the end of September.
- The pilot project in Lisdoonvarna targeting Ukrainian Refugees in conjunction with Weighlifting Ireland is going to be expanded and two more iterations are going to occur. Currently getting expressions of interest.
- Have held further one to one discussion with International Protection Applicants in Ennis, Shannon and Ballyvaughan.
- 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.

Outdoor Recreation

- Jess O'Keefe 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.
- We have emailed our 40 providers and clubs with information about the CORP, along with an introduction to the new Outdoor Recreation Officer.
- HerOutdoors August 12th to 18th was a collaboration team effort of recruiting providers to bring them on board and being their point of contact and attending some events.
- The ORO has consulted with the local sports plan on the Outdoor Recreation draft actions and links to the upcoming CORP.
- The first survey from the consultant has been proofread and is ready to go out to outdoor recreation sites.

- The ORO is currently organizing the next CORC meeting for early September, along with a national in-person gathering of OROs at the National Trail Conference on September 2nd-3rd.

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

Newly installed vehicle activated driver feedback warning sign on the N67 South of Ballyvaughan.



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 Niall Mullins, Declan Burke, Donagh Meade, John Fitzgerald, John Walsh



Schedule of Municipal District Works

• Roadworks

Footpath, Roadford Doolin - works commenced on site to provide safe pedestrian link between Fitz's Cross and Roadford in Doolin.



Footpath & Resurfacing Works, Parliament Street Ennistymon



NS Secondary Mtce N85 Ballyea Inagh



Footpath repair works Miltown Malbay



- **Litter Management**

Lahinch Street Cleaning early morning cleaning



LIS Road Works Clouna Ennistymon



Large Bins - new large capacity bins provided at 3 locations in Doolin.



NS Secondary Mtce N85 Ennistymon



Large Bins – new large capacity bins provided at the Promenade, Lahinch



Ennistymon Public Realm Improvement works - Part VIII.

Part 8 Grant approval approved at Special Meeting of Clare Co Council on 26th July last for public realm improvement works at the Square, Ennistymon & Parliament St Ennistymon to include upgrades to footpaths, provision of a pedestrian friendly raised table area with controlled crossing, provision of a pedestrian friendly raised table with new courtesy crossing, raised courtesy crossings, revisions to on-street car parking layouts, new paved surfaces, and relocation of existing and provision of new street lighting and street furniture. The demolition of buildings at Monastery Lane to facilitate the provision of 45 parking spaces is gone out to tender with works estimated to commence in September 2024

Cross Directorate meeting with NPWS

Cross Directorate Meeting took place with NPWS in early August with a view to building relationships with them and viewing sites owned and managed by them in North Clare



Community Recognition Fund

Funding of €165,000 announced in August by the Department of Rural & Community Development for the refurbishment of Lahinch Playground



TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Milwaukee 2024



FLY INTO COUNTY CLARE

Visit CLARE

Fly Direct to 6 Major hubs around the world from Shannon Airport

New York - JFK & Newark	DELTA Aer Lingus
Boston - Logan	Aer Lingus
Chicago - O'Hare	Aer Lingus
London - Heathrow	Aer Lingus
Paris - Charles de Gaulle	Aer Lingus

Some seasonal services may apply.
Visit www.ShannonAirport.ie for full details

Less than one month after Clare lifted the Liam McCarthy at Croke Park, The Banner was once again raised high in August when the County was placed on centre stage at the world's largest celebration of Irish music and culture. A Clare County Council-led tourism delegation travelled to Wisconsin for the Milwaukee Irish Fest (15-18th August) to

target US holidaymakers who are planning overseas holidays for 2025. *'Fly Shannon'* was the focus of the promotion with four scheduled services between Shannon Airport and JFK, Newark, Boston Logan and Chicago O'Hare airports.

CLARE TOURISM EAST ATTRACTIONS

Site Visit by Elected Members

Clare County Council Elected Members attended a site visits to Craggaunowen, Knappogue Castle and Gardens and Bunnratty

Castle in July to view developments made since the sites have come under the management and promotion of Clare County Council last year.



Stephen Hanley, General Manager of Clare Tourism East speaking with Councillors Rita McInerney and Shane Talty.



Bunnratty's resident Thatcher Adrian Garvey at work.



Bunnratty Castle and Folk Park's Cathal Greene with Councillors Antoinette Baker Bashua, Rachel Hartigan and Donna McGettigan.



Bunnratty Castle & Folk Park Resident Blacksmith James O'Connor provides a demonstration for Councillor Mary Howard.



Councillor Alan O'Callaghan, Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, in the Main Guard of Bunnratty Castle.



Council staff and Elected Members take a trip through the 26-acre Folk Park on the Bunnratty Express.



Culture and Crafts Day at Craggaunowen



Ireland's traditional crafts and trades were showcased during the 2024 Culture & Crafts Fair at Craggaunowen on July 13th and 14th. Visitors had the opportunity to engage directly with artists, crafts and tradespeople, storytellers, musicians and dancers from across the Banner County.

This event celebrated Ireland's lost or traditional crafts and trades and featured an array of local tradespeople including Jack Pinson, a Clare-based maker of traditional and historic longbows, who showcased the ancient skill of timber craftwork on the traditional pole lathe while Michael Foudy from Ruan who demonstrated the ancient craft of basket making and how locally sourced pliable materials such as hazel and willow were used to create baskets for carrying fuel, gathering food or catching fish.

Meanwhile, the ringfort's resident blacksmith and tool maker (Uinseann) forged jewellery and shared his knowledge of the history and mythology of forging in Ireland, and Craggaunowen's resident craftsman (Arno) transformed animal hide and wood into functional drums for tribal ceremonies.

The 16th-century Craggaunowen Castle also hosted demonstrations and talks by local artists and craft producers, including artist Helen Lowe, SIAR Photography, Allison Chillice Leatherwork, Wild Atlantic Glass, Palm Oil Free Soaps, Carmel's Cottage Candles, Ramona Mulvey Jewellery, Pricella Crochet and Knitting, Gaelach Candles, Galanta Jewellery and Mona Paper Quilling.

Ireland AM broadcast live from Bunratty Castle and Folk Park



Bunratty Castle and Folk Park were delighted to welcome Deric Hartigan and the Virgin Media One Ireland AM team onsite this July to showcase to viewers the many new additions and enhancements we have made to the Castle and Folk Park this summer season.

Having worked at Virgin Media Television, for almost two decades, the Limerick native was back on familiar ground at the popular County Clare visitor attraction as Deric once worked as an entertainer at the world famous Bunratty Castle Medieval Banquet.

Speaking on the broadcast, Deric said, "I think I was like seventeen or eighteen. I was here for about five or six years fado, fado, entertaining the guests for many, many years. I know the place inside out so it kind of feels like a home from home here this morning," he added.

While visiting, Deric not only met with many of our new colourful characters, but also had the opportunity to take in our charming new jaunting car, Victorian carousel, walk our Irish Wolfhounds, witness skilled craftsmen at work, not to mention seeing and experiencing first hand our vibrant new medieval quarter.

Normans and Nobleman set up camp at Bunratty Castle and Folk Park



On July 6th and 7th, visitors to Bunratty Castle and Folk Park had the opportunity to step back in time and experience the sounds and sights of a true-to-life Norman encampment bustling with the sounds of chain mail and armour as Knights prepare themselves for action.

Taking place in the picturesque backdrop of the Rinucini Gardens in Bunratty Castle, thrilling combat demonstrations where combined with the opportunity to meet the characters and get up close with the tools and weapons of medieval warfare.

Top Billing for Bunratty Down Under



More than 300,000 television viewers across Australia will be introduced to Bunratty Castle & Folk Park this autumn.

An independent TV production team last week visited the popular County Clare visitor attraction where they filmed throughout the world-famous medieval castle and 26-acre folk park.

Bunratty will feature in an episode of a new show called 'Journey to Europe', fronted by travel journalist and presenter David Whitehill.

The programme airs on The Nine Network, one of five main free-to-air television networks in Australia, and its streaming service 9Now in October. The episode also will feature for six months on the Singapore Airlines in-flight entertainment system.

170th Anniversary of Loop Head Lighthouse



Deirdre O'Shea and Cllr. Rita McInerney with the speakers Martin Gleeson, Stephen Rowan, Simon Day and Simon Berrow.

On the 25th August, Loop Head Lighthouse marked 170 years anniversary with a special programme of events opened by Chair of West Clare Municipal District, Councillor Rita McInerney. The existing tower was built in 1854 replacing a previous structure

built in 1802 and there has been a lighthouse on the site since 1670.

To celebrate this anniversary, there was a host of events to include informative talks by Lighthouse Keepers and local area history as well as talks on the dolphins and whales that can be regularly seen around the Loop Head Peninsula. There was traditional Irish music, a scything exhibition, yoga, mindfulness and fitness demonstrations as well as an opportunity to meet Alpacas from the nearby Flying Alpaca Farm.

Heritage Week at Vandeleur Walled Garden & Visitor Centre



On Thursday 22nd The Vandeleur Walled Garden & Visitor Centre in Kilrush held a number of events to mark Heritage week. On the day there was free admission for everyone to enjoy the wonderful Walled Garden and the newly open Visitor Centre, this attracted a huge number of visitors with over 300 people attending on the day. Suzanne Hammond led a captivating Wild Plant Walk through the woods and garden where participants learned the art of foraging and were then treat to an insightful workshop demo indoors.

The Head Gardiner Karoly Torok then treated visitors to a wonderful talk and walk through the Garden. Karoly shared fascinating stories about the history of our walled garden and the Victorian craze for collecting rare plants. The day was then topped off with a magical performance from the local Comhaltas group led by Anne Hayes. Wonderful musicians and dancers showcased their amazing talents to a spellbound audience. The next major event will be Harvest day festival on September the 8th.

Inis Cealtra Holy Island Visitor Experience

Work is continuing at the Rectory with the extension to the rear, lift and services almost complete. The Tendering process for the fit out of the visitor interpretation centre is currently underway with works due to commence in Q4 2024.

The Project Delivery Team are progressing all keys items required to inform the EIAR and part 10 planning application for submission to An Bord Pleanála including Traffic Management Plans, Visitor Management Plans, and an Accessibility Audit of the Island. The team are also working closing with Waterways Ireland in finalising the finer details of the key infrastructure required for the landing point, jetty and access to Holy Island. Burren & Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark:

Burren Geopark Signage



The Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark has recently replaced and erected new signs at over 30 Geopark Sites and Heritage Trails across the region. This is part of the preparation for the next UNESCO revalidation in 3 years time. We thank ORIS for the funding and the Ennistymon Area office, in particular the GOs under the supervision of Brian Smith, for their invaluable assistance. The signs contain information on geology, heritage, biodiversity, archaeology, and history promoting our amazing landscape for the benefit of visitors and locals.

Presentations on the Burren and Geopark



Geopark geologist Dr. Eamon Doyle gave presentations on the Burren and the Geopark to a number of visiting university groups at the Burren College of Art, including a group from DePaul University, Chicago (image), as well as two other US student groups that are participating in the Global Ecologies Summer School.

Dr. Doyle also presented on the Burren to an online seminar on sustainability and walking organised by Dr. Catriona Murphy (TUS, Limerick) in association with the School of Hospitality and Tourism of Polytechnic Institute of Cavado and Ave (Portugal). Eamon was also filmed and interviewed about his work with fossils in the Geopark as part of a TG4 documentary about living and working along the west coast of Ireland by walking guide Cormac McGinley.

National Heritage Week



As part of National Heritage Week, Geopark geologist Dr. Eamon Doyle held an 'Antiques Rockshow' at the Michael Cusack Centre, Carron for people to bring any rocks or fossils for identification and discussion, as well as showcasing some of his interesting finds.

Heritage Week at the Cliffs of Moher Experience



National Heritage Week is a celebration of Ireland’s natural, built, and cultural heritage. Our heritage refers to our past and how we protect and preserve it to pass it on to future generations. This year’s theme ‘Connections, Routes and Networks’ invited us to look at what brings us together and what connects us. From August 17th to 25th, there were daily events at the Cliffs of Moher Experience showcasing our heritage. Each day, there was a presentation shown in the Visitor Centre along with regular complementary guided tours exploring the theme of Connections, Routes and Networks. Two-hour events also took place in the Visitor Centre featuring a range of the local community businesses including a knitting & weaving workshop with Anne O’Toole, hurley making workshop with MacCódá Hurleys, bag making workshop with Sally Ann Marron, scything workshop with Common Knowledge Organisation, live music & dancing with local musicians & dancers, storytelling with Balor O’Brien.

Closure of the Cliffs of Moher Trail

The Cliffs of Moher Experience offers 800 metres of safe walkways and viewing platforms. Beyond this, the Cliffs of Moher Trail, a challenging grade 5 trail, extends from Doolin to Liscannor. As of 22nd August 2024, a safety notice has been issued with regard to the closure of sections of the Cliffs of Moher Trail.



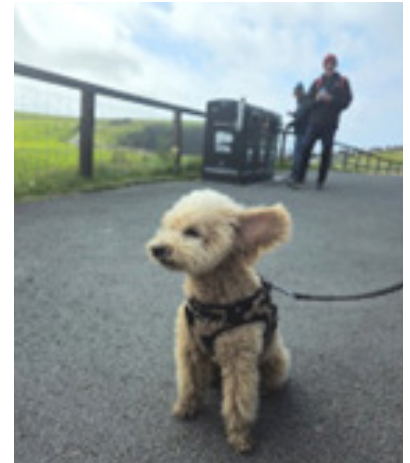
Trail Closures:

- **Southern Section (Liscannor/Hags Head):** 5km from Liscannor is fully closed due to severe safety concerns.
- **Northern Section:** The northern section (Doolin) is open from Doolin to Surfers Path only, at this point, walkers are advised to turn back and remain on the walk back to Doolin. **There will be no access to the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre from Doolin.**

The Cliffs of Moher Trail is only open for 1km both north and south of the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre.

International Dog Day

International Dog Day was celebrated on August 26th. On this day, people honour dogs as loyal companions and raise awareness about their needs. At the Cliffs of Moher Experience, we are totally dog friendly! We offer a doggy pit stop area with water located before the Visitor Centre. Dogs must remain on leads throughout their visit to the Cliffs of Moher.



10th Anniversary of the Wild Atlantic Way



In July, Margaret Jenkins, Manager of the Wild Atlantic Way, presented John O’Malley, A/Director of Services for Tourism Development with an image of the Burren to mark 10 years of successful collaboration between Clare County Council and Fáilte Ireland since the inception of the Wild Atlantic Way brand in 2014.

Kilkee Cliff Walk

A new study has revealed Ireland's most popular tourist destinations based on their number of 'excellent' Tripadvisor reviews. The study named the Kilkee Cliff Walk in County Clare the best-rated place, with 91.8% of reviews being 'excellent'. The study, conducted by sports betting and casino site Tonybet, looked at the percentage of 'excellent' reviews compared to the total number of reviews on Tripadvisor for top Irish destinations. The destinations with the highest portion of 'excellent' reviews were then ranked top to bottom. Only places with 100 reviews or more were considered.

The data revealed Kilkee Cliff Walk in County Clare as the tourist spot with the highest number of 'excellent' reviews, making up 91.8% of all reviews. Currently, the walk has a 5-star review on Tripadvisor.

Twinning - Killaloe MD Civic Reception for Mayor Lillian Seenoi Barr



Following on from the success of the civic reception hosted by Killaloe Municipal District for Mayor of Derry, Lillian Seenoi Bar, the Chair of the Twinning Committee Councillor Tony O'Brien presented the Mayor of Derry with Visit Clare gifts and discussed twinning opportunities given the similarities between Clare and Derry.

Clare Bus Routes



The Clare Tourism Advisory Forum are working in partnership with TFI Local Link on promoting travel to top Clare locations directly by bus from Ennis. Details to 'Bus around Clare' are available at www.visitclare.ie.

Funday Sundays Offers & Prizes



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/>

Local, National & International Promotional Campaigns:

The Visit Clare platforms of, X, LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook have a steady increase in followers month on month, with Facebook achieving over 300 new followers last month. This high engagement observed across these platforms is due to a refined marketing campaign; showcasing the beauty of the County; driving traffic to the website, prizes, and discounts on offer; along with local cross promotion and paid targeted marketing. The Experience Ennis video continues to run as paid video marketing campaign with the 3 new videos and will continue through to the end of summer.

Humphries official opening of Tourism Projects: To maximise all that is on offer in Clare, 3 new promotional videos have been created for the local, national, and international markets:

My Secret:

<https://vimeo.com/958357958/9064f70251>

<https://youtu.be/KfLMrMvZn30>

Now you know my Secret:

Now You Know My Secret: Part 2 (youtube.com)

<https://vimeo.com/958358463/6f5d82fb82>

International focus on Shannon Airport:

<https://youtu.be/eGruQ0jclSs>

<https://vimeo.com/995410609/73e0f72526>



WEST CLARE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT - KILRUSH LEA

Kilrush Multi Use Games Area



Works are progressing well on the development of a Multi-Use Games Area at The Active Kilrush Park. The project is due for completion at the end of Qt 3 2024 and will provide basketball, tennis, volleyball and other sporting games facilities for the community. This is a joint project being delivered collaboratively by Kilrush Electoral Area, Active Kilrush with grant funding from Clare Sports Partnership. The project is being undertaken by Family Grass Ireland Ltd.



Schedule of Municipal District Works 2024

During the summer months Kilrush MD staff were involved on several Surface Dressing, Overlay and Paving projects:



FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

HUMAN RESOURCES



Recruitment Competitions



The following **recruitment competitions** were progressed during July & August

Eligibility Exercises & Desktop Shortlisting

- Visual Arts Co-Ordinator
- IS Cyber Security Grade VI
- IS Project Leader Cyber Security Grade VII
- Librarian (Grade V)
- Clerical Officer
- Heavy Vehicle Mechanic
- Fleet Manager

Interviews

- Executive Architect
- Retained Fire fighters - Shannon, Kilrush & Killaloe
- Ganger - Killaloe
- Craftworker (Carpenter)
- Beach Operative - Killaloe
- Apprentice Heavy Vehicle Mechanic
- Library Facilities Attendant (Full time)
- Beach Operative - Kilkee
- Visual Arts Co-Ordinator
- IS Cyber Security Grade VI
- IS Project Leader Cyber Security Grade VII
- Librarian Grade V
- School Warden - Ennis MD, Shannon MD, West Clare MD Ennistymon

The following competitions were advertised:

- Beach Operative - Kilkee
- Library Assistant
- Clerical Officer
- Canteen Attendant Sporadic Cover

- Heavy Vehicle Mechanic
- Executive Architectural Conservation Officer
- Fleet Manager
- Retained Fire Fighter Panels - Shannon, Killaloe, Kilrush & Kilkee
- Internal Auditor (Administrative Officer level)
- Traveller Liaison Officer
- Recycling Assistant - Scariff Recycling Centre
- School Warden Ennis MD Sporadic Cover
- School Warden - Shannon MD (Part-time & Sporadic Cover)
- School Warden West Clare MD Ennistymon (Part-time & Sporadic Cover)
- Executive Planner
- Assistant Planner
- Graduate Planner
- IS Analyst Developer (Networks) ICT Service Desk & Support (Grade VI)
- Community Safety Coordinator in LCSP (Grade VII)
- Chief Technician
- Fitness Instructor Active Ennis (Part-time)
- Foreman - Killaloe (Confined)
- Senior General Services Supervisor - Killaloe MD (Confined)
- General Services Supervisor - Killaloe MD (Confined)
- General Services Supervisor - West Clare MD - Kilrush (Confined)
- Acting Director of Service (Confined)

Learning and Development

Training programmes / Webinars / Conferences/ Information Sessions held in July & August include:

- Clerical Officer Interview Training Skills Workshop
- Dignity & Respect Workshop
- Line Managers Information Session on Policy Updates
- PSDP - Coordinating the Role
- Safety, Health & Environment for Construction Site Managers



Essential Skillz on-line Courses:

- Being an Active Listener
- Giving Useful Feedback
- Health & Safety Induction
- Identifying Stress in Your Team
- Slips, Trips & Falls
- What is Unconscious Bias

Health & Safety:

- Manual Handling
- Polesaw Training
- Safe Dog Handling Workshop
- Site Dumper Assessment

The Clare County Council Peer Coaching Programme was launched and is now available to all staff following the certification of 20 internal coaches.

August Wellbeing Focus

The Environment



Saving Energy – Top Tips



Driving Efficiency & Saving Money



Tips To Make Your Home Greener



Waste Prevention

Employee Wellbeing

In July the Wellbeing Hub focus was Family Health. In August the focus was the Environment. Commuter options were highlighted to Clare County Council Staff in collaboration with the Climate Action Team.

“Sun Smart talk to our Outdoor staff are taking place. The HSE are delivering these talks at Depots around the County. The attendance and engagement has been fantastic across the County. A really worthwhile piece of work”.

Unions

The Human Resources Department engages with Unions on various matters.

FINANCE

Procurement:

Tender Name	RFT ID	Response deadline	Procedure
Tender for the delivery of training, workshops and business clinics for micro-enterprises in Co. Clare for 2025 to 2027	4161408	24/09/2024 12:00	Open
The provision of a Class B Fire Appliance with an Aerial Fire-fighting Capability	4159969	27/09/2024 16:00	Open
Supply of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) to Clare County Council	4146439	23/09/2024 12:00	Open
Single Supplier Framework - Initial Contract for 1 no.Velocity Patching Truck with an option for 1 additional unit subject to funding	4123540	09/09/2024 12:00	Open
Interpretive Fit-Out of Old Rectory Building - Inis Cealtra	4112692	09/09/2024 12:00	Restricted
7.5 Tonne Crew Cab Tipper Pick Up Trucks via Single Supplier Framework over 2 Lots	4054355	30/08/2024 12:30	Open

As part of the National Budget 2024, the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE) Simon Coveney announced a package of €257m for the Increased Cost of Business (ICOB) Grant as a vital measure for small and medium businesses.

In accordance with this Government decision, DETE has been responsible for the oversight, ongoing review and allocation of funding to Local Authorities for the Scheme.

Clare County Councils Finance and Support Services Department, through a Service Level Agreement delivered this grant scheme on behalf of DETE.

The scheme provided a grant amount to 50% of the businesses commercial rates in 2023 for business paying less than €10,000 in rates. A fixed grant of €5,000 applied to businesses paying between €10,000 and €30,000 in rates with no grant aid provided to businesses paying more than €30,000.

A Government announcement on May 15th, introduced a second top-up or double payment of ICOB for businesses in the retail and hospitality sectors.

The staff of the Rates section worked diligently to access and process applications from April to August, engaging with rate-payers and ensuring that each one was reviewed thoroughly and in a timely manner. A total of €6 million has been paid to small and medium businesses in County Clare.

Clare County Council received 2524 applications for the ICOB Grant and made payments to 2249 applicants to a value of €3.8 million. The difference of 275 applications is made up of duplicate applications, void applications and applicants who did not meet the criteria set out by DETE.

For the second top up payment which was announced for the Hospitality and Retail sector, Clare County Council have paid a further €2.2 million. The Accommodation sector received a top up of €711,000 and the Retail sector received a top up of €1.5 million.

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Town Centre First

Collaborative Town Centre Health Checks

The Town Centre First Department in conjunction with Queen's University Belfast, Municipal Districts and Rural Development staff hosted a series of drop-in consultations in Tulla, Lisdoonvarna & Clarecastle on July 3rd & 4th as part of the preparation of a Collaborative Town Health Check report for the three towns. A significant turnout from the local communities resulted in feedback being received on a range of issues including street and spaces, natural spaces, feeling safe, traffic and parking. A Collaborative Town Centre Health Check report will be presented to the Elected Members of Clare Co. Council and the three local communities in question in the Autumn. Expressions of Interest Surveys inviting individuals to become part of new Town Teams for Kilrush, Tulla, Lisdoonvarna and Clarecastle were widely circulated via social media and at drop-in consultations held at the various locations.

Town Centre First Department, Killaloe Municipal District, Rural Development staff and Queens University Belfast hosting consultation for a Collaborative Town Centre Health Check in Tulla.



L-R Marie Lynch, Town Centre First Department, Darren Carroll, Rural Community Development Officer, Grainne McCormack, Town Centre First Department, Dr. Neil Galway, Queens University Belfast, Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner, Killaloe Municipal District and Declan Flanagan, Acting Senior Executive Engineer, Killaloe Municipal District.

Town Centre Health Check consultation in Clarecastle.



L-R Sean Lenihan, Senior Engineer, Ennis Municipal District, Marie Clare Gorman, Clarecastle, Marie Lynch, Town Centre First Department, Joan Tarmey, Town Regeneration Officer (Acting), Grainne McCormack, Town Centre First Department and Michael Foley, Clarecastle Community Development.



Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan, addressing students/academic staff at Queens University Belfast



L-R Students and Dr. Neil Galway, Queen's University Belfast engaging with a member of the public at drop-in consultation evening in Tulla.

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.

Kilrush Town Centre First Plan

Tenders are being sought for consultants to prepare a Town Centre First Plan for Kilrush. It is expected to commence the Masterplan process in early Autumn with strong input from a new Town Team and the wider public. A full programme of public consultation will be rolled out over the next 12 months.



Town Centre First Department staff inviting participation in a new Kilrush Town Team.

L-R Grainne McCormack and Joan Tarmey, Town Centre First Department.

Funding for Project Development Measures

The Minister for Rural & Community Development has announced funding for two projects under the Project Development Measure 3 under the Town Centre First Suite of Supports 2024. The towns of Sixmilebridge and Lisdoonvarna will be awarded funding of €50,000 each to bring forward their project. In Lisdoonvarna, the

project aims to design a wellness corridor to key features within the town. While in Sixmilebridge, the project focuses on developing an overall design scheme for a pedestrian footbridge across the O'Garney River along with associated public realm designs to facilitate pedestrian safety, improve connectivity, accessibility and inclusion. It aims to enhance the overall public realm of the town core in line with the Sixmilebridge Town Centre First Plan.

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. The elected members of Ennis Municipal District were briefed on the new THRIVE scheme on Tuesday, 27 August.

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.

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

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. The community and stakeholder engagement will be important in giving the people of Ennis a voice in the selection of one heritage building for regeneration and its end-use.

Stakeholder and citizen engagement for this project is expected to begin in late September.



FORWARD PLANNING

Draft First Revision to the National Planning Framework

The Draft First Revision to the National Planning Framework July 2024 was published on 10th July and is currently open for public consultation until the 12th September 2024. This document is the government's high level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of our country to 2040 and can be viewed on this link [gov](https://www.gov.ie) - [Draft Revision of National Planning Framework open for public consultation \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie). The Draft Revision of the NPF focuses on the need to update the Framework (introduced in 2018) in order to appropriately reflect changes to Government policy that have taken place since its initial publication six years ago, such as climate transition, regional development, demographics, digitalisation and investment and prioritisation. Once finalised, the revised National Planning Framework will be incorporated into the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies and the City and County Development Plans, other Local Authority plans and policies including through updated Housing Supply Targets. A Councillor briefing on the key aspects of the revised NPF is scheduled for 2nd September with a view to making a submission by 12th September. (nfp jpeg instert)



One Shannon Hub

On the 2nd of July the project delivery team visited the new Peace Campus community facility in Monaghan Town. This newly opened community building provided insights for the project team into how buildings such as this are delivered and function and considerable learnings were gained on the day. This new Peace Campus community facility was officially opened in May 2024 and is a 3,500sqm building footprint in a town center site, sharing many similar characteristics to the Shannon site.



One Shannon Hub Delivery Team visit to the Peace Campus Monaghan Town

Ennistymon Public Realm Improvement works - Part VIII.

Part VIII was approved for the Ennistymon Public Realm Improvement works at a Special Meeting of Clare Co Council on 26th July, 2024. The project will now progress to tender stage.

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.



Sea Tech Week is an international event dedicated to marine and maritime science and technology, taking place from the 15th -17th October 2024 at the Quartz Congress Centre in Brest, France. This year's country of honour is Ireland, marking the first time in Sea Tech Week's 20-plus year history that a European country will receive this recognition.

It will focus on Maritime safety and security, a major component of the Campus mondial de la mer community in terms of research, training and innovation. It will address issues relating to the risks associated with navigation at sea, government action at sea, cyber security, migration, regulation, environmental protection, etc.

Given Kilrush Maritime Training Centre will not only service the indigenous market but also the international market coupled with the vision of establishing a world class facility incorporating virtual and simulated solutions, a delegation from Clare County Council comprising members of the Project Delivery Team and elected representatives will travel to Brest in October 2024 to visit similar training facilities, meet with world leaders in the provision of simulators, together with bi-lateral meetings with Offshore Wind Farm Developers and local planning and economic development agencies through the networking and BtoB meetings being held at the conference.

Given the re-establishment of the Twinning of Plouzané with Kilrush which is located in Brest, this represents a unique opportunity to represent the twinning of Kilrush with Plouzané and the establishment of the Kilrush Maritime Training Centre

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 June to discuss the potential of undertaking a strategic review of the Plan given the time lapse since its publication

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

and the many changes in terms of maritime and land use legislation not least the enactment of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (MAP Act) and the publication of the National Marine Planning Framework. In addition, the merits of having a DMAP (Designated Marine Area Plan) for the Shannon Estuary and wider coastal areas of counties Clare, Limerick and Kerry were also discussed with the Steering Group. Further discussions on the merits of both are due to be held in September between the Local Authorities and both the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to determine the best approach.

Marine Planning Functions

In December 2023, the Government made the decision that the Marine Planning, Foreshore and MARA Governance functions that had previously resided within the remit of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage should transfer to the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications.

This transfer formally took place on the 14th May 2024 with the following specific functions transferring to DECC:

- Policy and legislative responsibilities in relation to marine forward planning and enforcement (under the MAP Act) which include the National Marine Planning Framework, Designated Maritime Area Plans, Marine Planning Policy Statement and guidelines issued under the MAP Act.
- Governance and oversight of the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA)
- Regulation of activity on the foreshore (under the Foreshore Acts 1933) as part of the migration to the new system operated by MARA under the MAP Act.
- Following this transfer, the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications is Ireland's Competent Authority for Marine Spatial Planning.

CONSERVATION AND BUILT HERITAGE

Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS)

The 2025 Built Heritage Investment Scheme was announced on 26th July 2024 by Malcolm Noonan TD, Minister of State for Nature, Heritage and Electoral Reform at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

The scheme, which supports the owners of historic properties, has awarded €12m in funding to over 1,600 projects nationwide over the past three years. Grants of up to €50,000 are now available to cover the cost of maintaining and conserving Ireland's architectural heritage.

Grants applicants may receive a maximum of €50,000 under the scheme, which must represent no more than 80% of the project's total cost. Buildings/structures eligible for funding under the scheme include:

- Protected structures (i.e. those on the local authority's record of protected structures)
- Proposed protected structures (i.e. buildings the local authority has proposed to add to its list)
- Structures in Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs are defined by the Local Authority)
- Vernacular buildings (max grant for these is €30,000)

Further details are available at

<https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/planning/news/2025-built-heritage-investment-scheme.html>

The closing date for receipt of applications for the Built Heritage Investment Scheme to the Council is Friday 27th September 2024.

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	July/August 2024 up to & including 26/08/2024	Total (Valid) Year to date 2024
No. of Section 57 Declaration Requests received	5	19

HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY

Lisdoonvarna Spa Wells Heritage-Led Regeneration Plan

Consultants Studio Mycro have been appointed for the preparation of a heritage-led regeneration plan for the Spa Wells site in Lisdoonvarna, with funding secured under the Heritage Council's Historic Towns Initiative.

The heritage-led regeneration plan aims to revitalise the Spa Wells site, a location of significant historical and cultural value to Lisdoonvarna and the county. The project will focus on preserving the site's heritage while promoting sustainable development and community engagement. An inception meeting and site visit was held with the consultants on 29th July and they are currently working locally, adopting a community-led approach to ensure that the plan reflects the needs and aspirations of the local population. Their work will involve close collaboration with local stakeholders to create a sustainable vision that honours the historical significance of the Spa Wells site while fostering its future development. The final plan will include a conservation management plan, an architectural plan for heritage-led regeneration, a strategic use case and sustainable business plan and a 5 year action plan to guide the implementation of the heritage-led regeneration plan.

Transition Year 'Tasters' Pilot project

A pilot Transition Year 'Tasters' project will be introduced in five post-primary schools across County Clare in 2024. This innovative programme is designed to raise awareness of Transition Year students of Clare's rich cultural heritage through direct, hands-on experience in some of the county's traditional skills and in so doing in the opportunities that could be consider in relation to possible future career choices for students.

For the 2024 pilot, the focus will be on traditional stonemasonry and blacksmithing/bladesmithing - crafts that are deeply embedded in the history of County Clare. Work-shops will be conducted by local artisans, offering students the unique opportunity to learn these valuable skills directly from masters in the field.

This initiative not only serves to preserve and transmit traditional skills but also aims to ignite interest among young people in potential career paths within heritage crafts. One of the key objectives of this programme, in line with the Heritage Plan's focus on "Light the Spark, See the Light," is to raise awareness among students about the opportunities within heritage industries, encouraging them to consider these skills not just as part of our cultural heritage but as viable career options.



Clare Community Archaeologist

A Community Archaeologist has been appointed by Clare County Council for a three month period which is a position funded by the Heritage Council under the Community Archaeologist Scheme. The remit will focus on community engagement, providing advice to community groups and organisations and offering guidance to community groups across County Clare.

Photogrammetry and LiDAR Survey at Loop Head Decarbonisation Zone

The data gathering phase for the "Impact of Climate Change on Coastal Heritage Sites" project at Loop Head Decarbonisation Zone has been successfully completed. This phase involved extensive photogrammetry and LiDAR survey work, carried out by the Centre for Robotics & Intelligent Systems (CRIS) at the University of Limerick. The collected data is currently in the processing stage, with comprehensive reporting expected later in the year.

This project is an important component of our ongoing efforts to assess and mitigate the effects of climate change on our coastal heritage. The initiative is funded by the County Heritage Plan Fund, provided by the Heritage Council, and aligns with our strategic objectives as outlined in the Clare County Heritage Plan 2024-2030. The processed data will be pivotal in formulating strategies for the preservation and management of our coastal heritage sites, ensuring their resilience in the face of environmental challenges.

The next phase is to complete the data analysis and the subsequent reporting

National Heritage Week 2024

Heritage Week 2024 was held from 17th to 25th August during which there was a vibrant and engaging celebration of the county’s heritage through this year’s programme which featured nearly 120 local events throughout the county. These showcased the rich and diverse cultural, natural, and historical heritage of County Clare and were testament to the dedication and enthusiasm of the many contributing local community groups, his-torical societies, environmental organisations, and individual volunteers who devoted their time and expertise and organisations which was instrumental in making the week such a success.



The events held spanned a broad range of interests, from guided historical tours, tradi-tional music sessions, workshops on local crafts, nature walks, biodiversity talks, and exhibitions on the county’s maritime heritage. The extensive events programme was supported by the Heritage Officer in collaboration with the Heritage Council to ensure all events were promoted and accessible to a broad audience.

National Biodiversity Week ran from the 17th to the 25th of August 2024. Clare County Council’s Biodiversity Officer organised a range of events to promote engagement with biodiversity during National Heritage Week. The programme of events was well attended and there was good interaction on the ‘Greener Clare’ social media platforms. The events are supported by Clare County Council and the Local Biodiversity Action Fund through the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The following events were hosted by the Council:

- The Ecology of Bats with Dr. Tina Aughney (Inagh Community Hall)
- The Benefits of biodiversity on the Farm with Sean O’Farrell (Scarriff GAA and Com-munity Centre)
- Mayflies of Ireland Online Webinar (Biodiversity Officer Network)



Dr Tina Aughney giving a presentation to attendees during a bat talk held at Inagh Community Hall on the 19th of August.



Sean O’Farrell gave a presentation on the benefits of biodiversity on the farm at Scarriff GAA and Community Centre on the 20th of August.

Ennis Pollinator Roundabouts

Clare County Council’s Biodiversity Officer partnered with Ennis Tidy Towns to install new pollinator friendly signage on the Ennis Roundabouts. The initiative is funded by Clare County Council and the Local Biodiversity Action Fund through the National Parks and Wildlife Service to raise biodiversity awareness in public spaces. Ennis Tidy Towns, with the assistance of Ennis Municipal Area Office Staff have been adopting pollinator friendly mowing regimes on the roundabouts over the past few years and this has resulted in a rich seed bank developing over time consisting of wildflowers which support pollinators. Clare County Council is a Council partner of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and the National Biodiversity Data Centre have documented and highlighted the Ennis roundabouts as a flagship initiative of pollinator friendly management on transport corridors work with local community groups. A special thanks to Joe Pilkington and Pat Lynch in Clare County Council’s Machinery Yard and Ennis Municipal District Area Office Staff for their ongoing support.



Members of Ennis Tidy Towns, Clare County Council’s Biodiversity Officer and Ennis Municipal District Area Office Staff installing new pollinator signage at Ennis Roundabouts.

Common Knowledge Talk and Corofin North Clare Agricultural Show

On 27th of July, Clare County Council’s Biodiversity Officer gave a presentation to community groups from the North Clare area at the Common Knowledge Centre near Lisdoonvarna. The talk covered funding opportunities and actions community groups could undertake to progress Community Biodiversity Action Plans. The talk covered actions around pollinator management, bird nest boxes for endangered species, bat roost boxes, water quality and tree planting, identifying project partners, and key information to include in funding applications. Later that day Clare County Council’s Biodiversity Officer participated in a panel discussion ‘Farmers for Biodiversity’ at the Corofin North Clare Agricultural Show with other guest panelists to discuss the challenges and opportunities for biodiversity and farming. Both events were well attended.

Swift Nest Boxes

In early July, swift nest boxes were installed at four churches with the assistance of Niall McDonagh and Kathryn Finney of BirdWatch Ireland as part of the ‘Return to Nature Clare Church Biodiversity Project’. The four churches included Kilkee, Mullagh, Inagh and Kilmaley. The swift is a red-listed bird species of conservation concern in Ireland due to declines associated with habitat loss and modifications to traditional buildings. Swifts are site faithful. The population has declined by over 40% in the last 15 years. This measure will provide nesting habitat for the species. The boxes are placed at heights in the eaves so that Swifts can free-fall as they leave the nest and it protects them from predators. The wildflower meadows on the church grounds have been in full bloom and now support Common Spotted Orchid along with hawksbeard, ox-eye daisy, self-heal amongst other pollinator friendly plants. The results have been covered by Clare FM, the Clare Echo Newspaper and the Clare Champion.



Swift nest box installation in July 2024 and Common Spotted Orchid

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The table below shows the number of planning applications processed during the month of July, and August, together with the year to date figures and 61 percent of planning applications received in to date were received by electronic means. To date 1510 submissions have been made online.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS	July	Aug	Year to date 2024
No. of planning applications received	83	80	662
No. of Planning Decisions made	98	52	582
No. of decisions notified by An Bord Pleanála	2	7	42
No. of pre-planning enquiries received	16	23	160
No. of Section 5 applications	9	6	52
No. of Section 97 Exemption Cert applications (in respect of Part V of the Planning & Dev Act 2000)	2	2	24
Submissions received regarding Compliance	21	10	172

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

July Statistics

New Complaints Received	25
New Files Opened	9
Files Closed	5
Warning Letters Issued	17
Enforcement Notices Issued	1
Legal Proceedings	0

August Statistics (up to and including 27th August 2024)

New Complaints Received	15
New Files Opened	12
Files Closed	2
Warning Letters Issued	13
Enforcement Notices Issued	0
Legal Proceedings	4

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

- **Training:** 20 businesses participated in two pilot programs focused on Exporting and Digitisation. These businesses underwent comprehensive assessments to evaluate their readiness for modernisation and to expedite their export initiatives.
- **Mentoring:** LEO Clare continued to assist entrepreneurs under the Mentor Pro-gramme, who had a strong requirement for Business Start Up, Finance, Digital Market-ing & Export Development advice. In July, 25 mentoring applications were assigned.

July Evaluation Committee Meeting:

In July, the Local Enterprise Office Evaluation and Approvals Committee (EVAC) held their 4th evaluation meeting of 2024. Three businesses were granted funding, two for Feasibility Studies & one Business Expansion.

Bia Innovator Campus Site Visit

LEO Clare organised a site visit to the Bia Innovator Campus in Athenry, Co. Galway in July for established and start up food businesses within the county. The BIA Innovator Campus is Ireland’s leading food incubation and innovation campus supporting ambitious food businesses through state-of-the-art food production facilities coupled with the technological and business supports needed to promote innovation and scaling.

The campus offers a new generation of food innovation, production and entrepreneurial supports & over 12 businesses took part in the trip.



Padraic McElwee & Sinead Dixon Slattery of LEO Clare accompanied by some Clare based food businesses

Showcase 2025

In July, the National Committee approved 4 Clare businesses to take part in Showcase 2025 in the RDS, Dublin. These businesses & products are:

- Original Artwork by Helen Lowe of Quin Art Shop
- Handmade Culinary Knives by Sam Gleeson of This Is What I Do
- Handmade Pottery by Kevin Keane of Potadóir
- Contemporary Handmade Jewellery by Rowena Sheen of Rowena Sheen Jewellery

The annual show attracts buyers & press from Ireland & around the world looking for unique, design-led products & will take place from 19th-21st January 2025.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Property Transactions and Conveyancing

The Table below shows the number of property transactions completed by Property Management Unit up to 21st August and the numbers 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. 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	July and August 2024	Year to date 2024	Full year 2023
Lease / Sub Lease of Property / Building	1	3	7

Licence to use property / building	2	11	7
Grazing Agreement for Lands	1	19	17
Deed of Transfer signed	1	5	15
Contract for Sale / acquisition signed		1	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 Summer events and locations is completed and we are about to issue licences for the September festival in Lisdoonvarna. The Team has assisted in many events including the Homecoming event held for the victorious Clare Senior Hurling

Team in the Fair Green in Ennis. 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 increase levels of activity and to date in 2024, we have identified and commenced engagement on 22 additional properties which we consider to be derelict and 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 July and August and the comparative figures for the full year 2023.

Derelict Sites	July and August 2024	Year to date 2024	Full Year 2023
No. of new files opened	7	22	58
No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued - Intention to enter site on Derelict Sites Register	1	25	41
No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued - Entry of site onto Derelict Sites Register	10	29	24
No. of Section 11 Notices issued - Measures required to render the site non-derelict	1	1	0
No. of files closed / property removed from Derelict Sites Register	2	18	15
No. of Notices served to Compulsorily Purchase derelict sites (CPO) (see note below)	3	7	10
No of Vesting Orders signed	2	3	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 commenced this programme 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
		1 - CPO completed, title got and sale is finalized in August 2024
		2 - works have commenced and CPO parked for now
2023	10	8 - At Vesting Stage and lodged in PRA - one of these has objected to the CPO
		1 - CPO completed and will be put on open market for sale in September 2024
		1 - Objection received and has been referred to An Bord Pleanála
2024	7	3 - At Vesting Stage and lodged in PRA
		3 CPO process commenced
		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.

At the end of August, the derelict sites levy was billed on eight property owners, amounting to €125,860.

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 2,000 individual surveys have been completed (with the data being uploaded digitally). 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 now amounts to €16 million as at 19th August 2024 (267 grant applications approved), with further approvals due to issue next week. 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.

The breakdown of Grant approvals by Municipal District shows the level of potential investment in West Clare Municipal District in particular, which accounts for 59% of all Grants approved to date.

Amount approved by Local Electoral Area (incl those with grant funding paid out)			
Local Electoral Area	No of applications approved	Total amount approved (€)	% of total number of Grants Approved
Kilrush LEA	102	€6.3 million	39%
Ennistymon LEA	53	€3.2 million	20%
Ennis LEA	34	€1.9 million	12%
Killaloe LEA	49	€2.9 million	18%
Shannon LEA	29	€1.75 million	11%
Grand Total	267	€16 million	100%

We continue to have high levels of enquiries and applications for the Croí Cónaithe Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant. At 21st August, we have received 430 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. We have also followed up with applications where a request for additional information was issued in order to assist customers in completing their application.

A walk in Clinic will be held in Áras Contae and Chláir in late September and it is hoped to arrange other such clinics around the County by the year end.

To date, we have processed twenty seven payments of the grant amounting to €1.55 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.

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. Note – The option to apply for the grant for rental purposes was introduced in May 2023.
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.

To date 18% 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. We continue to meet individual owners to guide them

through the process and to ensure they have all the documentation when submitting their application. We will consider holding further one-to-one clinics around the County during 2024.

gov.ie - Vacant homes

ENNIS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Purple Flag assessment

The Ennis Purple Flag committee applied for Purple Flag (pf) accreditation again in 2024. This is the gold standard for the management of destinations after-dark, assessing issues like partnership, policing, venue engagement and late-night transport options. Cllr. Pat Daly and Cllr. Tommy Guilfoyle were nominated to join the pf working group this year. Julie Brosnan – Homeless Co-ordinator and Brendan Boyce – Integration Officer were also new additions to the committee and contributed strongly at the assessment.

Ian Lacey (an experienced town planner) and Jamie Hamill (CE of Coleraine Business Improvement District) carried out the assessment on Saturday, August 10th. The assessment began with presentations from Ennis Chamber, EMD, An Garda Síochána and CCC at the Clare Museum. A tour of the town followed with stops at Tim Smythe Park, Cusack Park, Glór, various restaurants and pubs. The assessors were given an overview of cctv and community policing in the town at Ennis Garda Station before heading to the security room at the Queens for a briefing on the successful 'teen discos'. They were keen to visit the taxi rank and experience activity at the late-night takeaways. Weather conditions on the night were very favourable contributing to an enjoyable experience for all.



All Ireland Homecoming

Clare celebrated the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Champions 2024 with a crowd in excess of 35,000 in attendance at Tim Smythe Park, Ennis on Monday, July 22nd. The electric atmosphere generated an experience which will dwell in the memories of Clare people.

Ennis Municipal District together with a production company hosted a screening of the All-Ireland hurling final in Tim Smythe Park on July 21st. The crowd of circa 4,000 also enjoyed pre-match entertainment at this family friendly event.

Ennis MD staff contributed strongly to the organisation of both events including the preparation of Tim Smythe Park, coordination of the stage set up, installation of crowd control barriers and implementation of traffic management plans. The crews were also responsible for cleaning up the site following the conclusion of both events.



Amenity Park adjacent to St. Clare’s School, Gort Road



Extensive works were carried out to the amenity area and in particular, to open up the overgrown pathways to give an unobstructed pedestrian connection between Glenina, Ivy Hill and Fioruisce housing estates.

Ennis River Walk



Tree coverage at Ennis’ River Walk was cut back to enhance lighting to the area.

Clareabbey River Walk

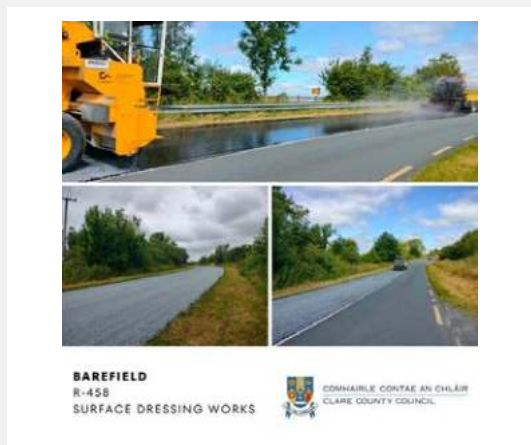


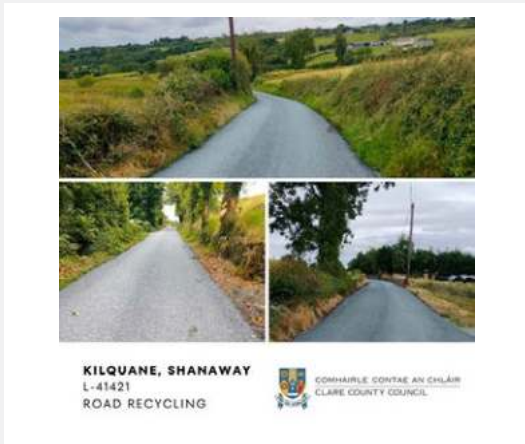
The riverwalk pathway was cut back to open up the full width of the pathway.

Roadworks Programme 2024

Ennis MD Roads crews have been busy throughout the summer months carrying out the 2024 Road Works Programme for the Ennis Municipal District. These works involved completing 39,500 sqm of Road Recycling and 90,00sqm of Surface Dressing works on both Regional and Local roads within the area.

The Roadworks Programme will continue into the Autumn months with the completion of the Overlay works with specialist contractor Breedon Group.





River Fergus Clean Up

In collaboration with the Ennis Sub Aqua Club, EMD removed heavy duty items including shopping trolleys, refuse bins and traffic cones from the River Fergus at locations including the Old Mill Wheel and Knox's Bridge.



Road Marking Works Ennis

The installation of new road markings and refreshment of existing ones was carried out in multiple areas of Ennis this month. Works included junction markings, centre lines, parking prevention markings (double yellow lines) and a refresh of existing parking bays in areas including Davitt Terrace, Friary Car Park and Ennis Swimming Pool.



Trip Hazard Repair Works

Trip hazard repair works were carried out in multiple locations around Ennis Town Centre, including Carmody Street, Phoenix Court, Cornmarket Street, Abbey St and Lower Market Street. These works include stabilisation of existing paving slabs, concrete footpath repairs and tactile paving at pedestrian crossing repair works.

Deep cleaning

Ennis MD carried out deep clean and power washing of town centre areas including the Market Building and surrounds, Friary Car Park & Bin Store and Abbey Street footpaths. Other areas where deep cleaning and moss removal took place included Cahercalla Drive residential area, where all footpaths were scraped and power washed to allow for safe pedestrian use of the area.





proposed will have one way traffic in one direction with opposite lane diverted. This is due to the proximity of the works to the Station Road traffic lights. Once the works are completed on the safer routes to school an asphalt overlay of Bothar na Trocaire from Station Road Cross to the Glor Roundabout will be undertaken.

Co-creating Works at Circular Road

Works on improvement of pedestrian access along Circular Road will commence in September.

Asphaltic Overlay Works

Works are programmed for the Quin Road R469 at Gorteen and Cusack Road, Ennis (Cloughleigh Rd Junction to Michael McTigue Bridge) in September.

Other Key Strategic works

In addition to the aforementioned, Ennis MD staff continue to work on a cross directorate basis with our colleagues and the appropriate Government Departments in advancing the Ennis Public Realm works, the LIHAF Access Road project, the Tulla Road and Clare Road Active Travel Projects. We also work closely with our DAC colleagues in developing the ambitious plans outlined in the Ennis 2040 Economic & Spatial Strategy. The 4 main proposals currently being progressed under the Strategy are as follows:

Francis Street S179A Affordable Housing Proposal

Enabling works completed. Judicial review lodged with High Court. Decision of the court will inform next course of action.

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.

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.

Tour de Munster - Down Syndrome Ireland

Ennis MD liaised with Down Syndrome Clare to facilitate the Tour de Munster cyclists to Ennis. The Outdoor crew carried out preparatory works in advance of the Stage 2 stop off from Killaloe to Tralee.



Additional car parking at Gort Road Business Park

A revised Part 8 Planning Process application for 62 additional car parking spaces adjacent to the R458 at Gort Road Business Park will be published on Friday 6th September, 2024.

Drawings and documents will be available at the Planning Section in Aras an Chontae from Friday September 6th to Friday October 4th with submissions before Friday October 18th

Safer Routes to Schools Works - Bothar na Trocaire

Works is expected to commence on the safer routes to school road works at Bothar na Trocaire between Station Road and Park Avenue later in September. The traffic management Plan

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	<p>The following is a brief overview of the activities within the Active Travel office:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CL/23/0010: Tulla Road Cycle Scheme, A phased approach to the construction of this scheme is being developed with a view to potentially starting some construction works in this calendar year. Phase 1 includes Cappahard and Roslevan roundabouts, Ballymachaiill junction and two bus stops west of this junction. A value engineering exercise in relation to the detailed design of phase 2 is being carried out by the consultant currently.• Ennis LTP: Following a meeting between Systra Consulting Engineers and Clare County Council, an updated Option Selection report including the emerging Preferred Strategy/Map has been received. This is currently being reviewed. <p>Limerick Road (incl. St. Flannans Drive) Cycle scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Feasibility and Option selection report has been approved by the NTA, with the preliminary design now progressing. <p>Connecting & Co-creating Ennis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Works are progressing with these junction improvements throughout Ennis. <p>‘Safe Routes To School’ program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Holy Family National School: Phase 1 of this scheme has been awarded. The contractor will be starting on site on 9th September with works expected to take 5-6 weeks.• Gaelscoil - Negotiations with a landowner are being finalised, reports on the ecological services have been received.
Public Lighting	<p>As part of the PLEEP (Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Programme) reconciliation surveys continue with crews currently based in the Ennis Area.</p> <p>For the benefit of Councillors, public lighting faults can be reported via Local Authority Identification (https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/roads-and-transport/road-maintenance-issues/report-a-broken-streetlight).</p> <p>Enerveo, who were engaged as the Public Lighting Maintenance Contractor for Clare County Council in conjunction with Limerick City and County Council, informed Clare County Council in late April of their exit from the public lighting maintenance market due to an acquisition of the parent company as of the end of July. Clare County Council in association with Limerick City and County Council are currently engaged in a Tender Process and are hoping to appoint a new maintenance contractor in early to mid September.</p>

Road Design Office

Projects 2024:

Project	Progress Update
Bridge Rehabilitation Programme	<p>AA screenings have been complete on bridges for the 2024 Bridge Rehabilitation Programme. Works have commenced on 10 bridges as part of the Bridge Rehabilitation programme with 5 nearing completion. A further 5 bridges are currently out to Tender with the view to commencing works in the coming weeks. Tender packs are being prepared for 4 bridges and will go out to the market in the near future.</p> <p>Shragh bridge in the West Clare MD is under design with Punch Consulting Engineers.</p> 
Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads	<p>Low Cost Safety Schemes in 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R471 Bothar Mor, Shannon €90,000, Section 38 has been approved. design complete, construction to begin in the coming weeks. • L-4608 Rosslevan, Ennis €40,000, Section 38 has been approved with proposed Traffic Calming measures to be completed in the coming months. • R352 Bodyke €50,000, Section 38 public consultation complete with no submissions received. Design work for resurfacing underway with construction to begin pending Section 38 approval.
Specific Improvement Grant	Design work has been completed for Ogonnoloe and the scheme is now awaiting Section 38 approval.

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 during 2024.

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.

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.

CAPITAL DELIVERY / PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Doolin Pier Visitor Services Building

Following engagement with key personnel at Doolin pier in August, a review of needs at Doolin pier has commenced. This is being undertaken by a Cross Directorate team together with the West Clare Municipal District (Ennistymon Office), and will assess requirements, with a view to appraising 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. It is envisaged that this exercise will be complete in September, following which 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.

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 will ensure that pedestrian connectivity is in place along this well trafficked route in time for the 2025 tourist season.

<p>Ennis Public Realm Regeneration (Project B)</p>	<p>The appointed contractor is making very satisfactory progress across the town centre, and the benefits are clear to be seen as sections of shared surface streetscapes are opened for public use. In August, the unveiling of the newly paved High Street section marked a significant 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 streetscape 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> <p>It must be noted that the foul sewer works on O’Connell Street and High Street were completed in May. This welcome investment by Uisce Eireann (Irish Water) ensures that that legacy infrastructure is upgraded and future-proofs the sewer system and associated service delivery.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Road Closures are now in place for O’Connell Street, and High Street, and there will be a need for limited further road closures in the town centre in 2024 to facilitate certain aspects of the works.</p> <p>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 and, 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 ennispublicrealm@shareridge.ie if they wish to be added to mailing list.</p> <p>It is unavoidable that there will be disruption with a major civil and infrastructural works of this nature, but every effort is being made to keep this to a minimum while allowing the necessary access to allow timely completion. It is expected that the longer-term advantages in terms of user amenity and accessibility will far outweigh the shorter-term inconvenience. The cooperation and understanding of all stakeholders in this regard is greatly appreciated.</p> <p>The benefits of this worthwhile investment have become evident in recent weeks with the removal of temporary construction fencing, and opening up 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.</p>
<p>Ennistymon Inner Relief Road and Bridge Crossing (Blake’s Corner)</p>	<p>The Judicial Review process is ongoing.</p>

Killaloe Bridge, Bypass & R494 Upgrade

Planned progress has been hampered by unseasonably wet weather but every endeavour is being made to recover lost time. Major Milestones achieved in recent weeks include:- completion of deck pours to new Shannon bridge, line marking and laying of pavement wearing course to Bypass Staggered Junctions, laying of pavement binder course to remaining sections of Bypass and Kincora roundabout.



Killaloe Bypass Section

Kincora: Accommodation works to Ballyvalley in progress. Drainage works nearing completion.

Main Cut to Hill Road: Finishing works in progress.

Hill Road to Creeveroe Road: Finishing works in progress.

Creeveroe Road to Shantraud: Finishing works in progress.

Shantraud Roundabout: CPO 124 Accom. Wks. in progress.



Shannon Bridge Crossing Link

Shantraud to Clarisford Junction: Kerbing and road preps in progress.

Clarisford to West Embankment: Construction of walls to embankment nearing completion.



Shannon Bridge

Finishing works commenced. Painting of steelwork nearing completion.



R494 Upgrade

Section 7 (South of Rail Bridge): Both new lanes open. Off-line finishing works nearing completion.

Section 7 (North of Rail Bridge): Both new lanes open. Off-line finishing works nearing completion.

Cattle Underpass nearing completion. Accom. Works to CPOs 182, 183 & 184 nearing completion.

Shannonside Business Park Access Ramp in progress.

Section 6: Both new lanes open. VRS installation ongoing. Shared facility prepped for surfacing.

Section 5 (Chainage 1350-1750): Accom. Wks. nearing completion. Box-cut to southern lane in progress. Kerb installation commencing W/C 26th Aug.

Section 4 (Chainage 950-1350): Road preps to north bound lane in progress. Kerb installation planned for W/C 26th Aug.



Section 3 (Chainage 650-950): Works to culverts in progress.

Sections 2: Accom. Works in progress.

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



Kilmastulla Bridge

Open to traffic. Finishing works in progress.

Rail Bridge

Open to traffic.

RW03 (Shannonside Business Park): Finishing works to retaining wall complete.



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

Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme

Clare County Council have received approval from the Office of Public Works to submit a planning application to An Bord Pleanála. CCC are working closely with scheme consultants JBA to make final arrangements for the submission.



PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

<p>Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF)</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 near future.</p> <p>Due to time constraints associated with the infrastructure delivery, acquisition of the land required for the scheme will continue by agreement.</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 due to commence in September with completion expected 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 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>The Design is now finalised following the Peer Review Process and a Final Design update which was recently presented to the Shannon MD and published on the 19th of August.</p> <p>The EIAR (Environmental Impact Assessment Report) has been completed and submitted to TII and the comments raised are being addressed by scheme consultants FTC & Co.</p> <p>The Project Team are currently 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.</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>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 OPW construction team have demobilised fully from site. Temporary fencing has been removed from all areas and all permanent fencing has been completed. Lands temporarily acquired for the construction period have been restored and returned. Clare County Council would like to thank the Office of Public Works, scheme consultant Malachy Walsh & Partners and all affected property owners for their cooperation and assistance throughout the project.</p> <div data-bbox="454 1220 1417 1444" style="text-align: center;"> </div>
<p>Remediation of sites containing ACM</p>	<p>The appointed Consultants have been requested to issue proposal for the preparation of Planning Application in respect of all 7 sites. It is expected that work on this application will commence in coming weeks with a view to approval in 2025, followed by tender process and implementation.</p> <p>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>
<p>Shannon Town & Environs Flood Relief Scheme</p>	<p>Scheme consultant RPS have updated the Climate Change Adaptation Plan (CCAP) and issued for review. An updated Buildability Report is also due to issue in the coming days.</p> <p>The scope and Bill of Quantities for the additional topographical surveys has been issued for pricing. Tender documents are also being prepared for the services of an Arborist on the scheme.</p> <p>The scope and Bill of Quantities for the additional topographical surveys has been issued for pricing. Tender documents are also being prepared for the services of an Arborist on the scheme.</p> <p>Clare County Council continue to liaise with the project team for the N19 Access Road Upgrade. A meeting with Shannon Golf Club will take place in September to close out the proposals for that area.</p>

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 1: Kilrush to Kilkee)	A peer review has been undertaken by TII on the draft Option Selection Report, and the comments raised have been addressed and returned to TII. TII approval has been sought to formally progress from Phase 2 to Phase 3. This will permit formal engagement with landowners in respect of the Voluntary Land Acquisition Agreement process to commence. Clare County Council has worked closely with TII to develop a template letter for this engagement, which will issue to affected landowners following the TII approval mentioned above. The preliminary design has been progressed, and updated environmental surveys are being undertaken to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment Report.
West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 2: Ennis to Ennistymon)	Having addressed the TII comments on the Option Selection Report for Section 1, this is now being used as a template for Section 2, with a view to hopefully achieving a quicker approval to progress to Phase 3. It is hoped to appoint a Land Liaison Officer later this year, 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.
West Clare Railway Greenway (Sections 3 & 4: Ennistymon to Miltown Malbay to Moyasta)	A report on the feedback to the first public consultation has been drafted. Environmental specialists are mapping 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.
Other Greenway Proposals	No update this month.

General Design Office

Vandeleur Gardens Lower Carpark Improvement & Landscaping Works	Design completed and costing prepared.
Town and Village Renewal Scheme	Parteen - Contractor commenced on site 04/07/2024 . Works currently progressing and due to conclude early September 2024.
Beechpark Machinery Yard main building and site upgrade works	The General Design Office have commenced site and building surveys with a view to carrying out major refurbishment works to the Machinery Yard main building and other ancillary site works. It is hoped to submit a Part VIII planning application for these works by Q1 2025. 
Ennistymon Hub Derelict Building Refurbishment, Monastery Lane	A revised Part VIII planning application has been submitted by the General Design Office to redevelop a former retail storage building and provide a new 2-storey office building. This resubmission takes on board and addresses the issues raised in the previously submitted and subsequently withdrawn planning application. 

FIRE & BUILDING CONTROL SECTION

Training Courses

Clare County Fire & Rescue Service personnel underwent a number of training courses during July and August, including Water Tanker Driver Training at Ennis, Shannon, Ennistymon, Scarriff and Kilrush Fire Stations with 4 personnel attending from each station. One new recruit firefighter from Scarriff Fire Station successfully completed a QQI accredited Firefighting Skills Course at Galway Airport on 12th July. Four new recruit firefighters from Ennis, Shannon and Ennistymon Fire Stations successfully completed their QQI accredited Firefighting Skills Course at Sligo Fire Station on 19th July.

New vehicles for Clare County Fire & Rescue Service

Clare County Fire & Rescue Service took delivery of two new Support Vehicles at the Central Fire Station Headquarters in Ennis. The two Volkswagen Transporter vans were funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage at an overall cost of €168,000.00 and will replace older similar vehicles in Killaloe & Kilrush Fire Brigades.



*Pictured: **Front Row: L-R** Cllr Alan O'Callaghan Cathaoirleach, Killaloe Station Officer Graham Tuohy, Kilrush Station Officer Michael Hanrahan, Director of Services Alan O'Farrell **Back Row: L-R** Chief Fire Officer Adrian Kelly, Killaloe Firefighter Dwane Byrnes, Ennis Station Officer JP McGrath, Ennistymon Driver Mechanic Brian McMahon, Kilkee Station Officer John Garvey, Scarriff Firefighter Padraig Myles, Shannon Firefighter Ryan Adams, Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer Tom Burke). Photo: Eamon Ward.*

Fire & Building Control Section Main Activities	June 2024	July 2024	Aug 2024 (Up to 23.08.24)	Year to Date 2024
Number of Emergency Calls Attended	101	99	67	765
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Received	3	11	0	67
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Granted	6	13	4	64
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Invalidated	0	0	0	3
Number of Disability Access Certificates Received	4	3	0	33
Number of Disability Access Certificates Granted	2	6	5	37
Number of Commencement Notices Received	30	28	16	353
Number of Dangerous Structures/Places Complaints	0	3	0	17

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

CLARE CIVIL DEFENCE

Operational Duties:

- Civil Defence provided medical cover at a number of events in July and August including Big Screen Showing of the All Ireland Senior Hurling Championship Final (Fairgreen, Ennis); Homecoming Event for Clare Senior Hurling Team (Fairgreen, Ennis); Tulla Music Festival (Tulla GAA Club); Funeral of Edna O'Brien (Lough Derg, Mountshannon); West Clare Cycling Club Road Race (Kilfenora); Junior Tour of Ireland Cycling Event (6 stages across 6 days in Clare); Gaelforce Swimming Event (Mountshannon) and Horse Show (Fountain Cross Equestrian Centre).
- During the month of July, Clare Civil Defence members were tasked by An Garda Síochána to assist with three missing person searches at the Cliffs of Moher. On one of these occasions, the Clare Unit were supported by Civil Defence Drone teams from Dublin, Laois, Galway, North Cork, West Cork and Mayo as searches were carried out around the North Clare area over a 6 day period.

Members Training & Professional Development

- Medical Instructors completed a Refresher Course organised by the Civil Defence Branch.
- 3 members completed the National Power Boat Course on Lough Derg.
- 12 volunteers completed a Search Responder Refresher Course.
- 6 members participated in a Manual Handling / People Moving Course with the National Ambulance Service.
- 4 new Drone Operators have commenced their training.

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

22 new recruits have been interviewed and are currently being processed. The 2024/2025 RBT Class will commence in early September 2024.

Colour Coding Project at the Cliffs of Moher

25 Civil Defence volunteers along with members of Doolin Coast Guard and Ennistymon Fire Station participated in the "Colour Coding Project" organised by the Management Team at the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Center. This project involves fixing and securing coloured plastic bands (see picture below) using screws and washers to fence posts all along the cliff trail. The aim of the project is to enhance the response times for the primary response agencies when responding to incidents at the Cliffs of Moher.



Pictured: Volunteer Robert Cleary fixing coloured plastic bands to a fence post at the Cliffs of Moher



Pictured: Volunteer Hannah Morrissey fixing coloured plastic bands to a fence post at the Cliffs of Moher

3rd Officer Mr. John Cuddihy

It was with the greatest sadness that we learned of the passing of our colleague and friend 3rd Officer Mr. John Cuddihy. John was a true friend to all at Clare Civil Defence. His big smile and even bigger laugh have left memories that will last a lifetime. John was a key member of the Boat Team and he participated in many search operations that brought closure to so many families. John recently received his 20 Year Service Award with Clare Civil Defence, a remarkable achievement and one we know he was extremely proud of. John gave many selfless, loyal and dedicated years of volunteer services to his community. He was a unique and extremely colourful character who never hesitated to answer the call. John will be missed by all who had the privilege and pleasure of knowing him. We would like to extend our deepest condolences to John's wife Mary, daughter Aoife, his two sons Ian and Darragh and all John's family and friends.



Pictured: 3rd Officer Mr. John Cuddihy.



Pictured: Funeral of 3rd Officer Mr. John Cuddihy

ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Awareness

An Taisce Blue Flag and Green Coast Programme

A summer beach campaign was delivered over July and August. During July and August adverts were placed in the Clare Echo and Clare Champion. A radio campaign also took place with daily adverts from 22nd July to 14th August 2024. The campaign was further complimented by regular social media posts across Clare County Council and Greener Clare social media channels. Messages comprised of Leave No Trace, Anti-litter messaging, dog owner responsibility, as well as promotion of An Taisce Clean Coasts photography competition.



Gardening

During the summer, the Gardening Team, working with the assistance of Ennis Municipal District, delivered the first phase of the Ennis Roundabout Enhancement Project with the planting of the Market Square roundabout (Gardening Photo 01).

The planting scheme incorporates a range of herbaceous perennials which will provide year-round colour and interest as well as being climate resilient and providing a food source for pollinating insects within an urban environment. This project will continue over the coming months with several additional roundabouts earmarked for redevelopment to incorporate soft landscaping and planting.

In addition to this work, the Gardening Team continued all scheduled seasonal duties at various public spaces and corporate buildings, to ensure that these locations were maintained to a high standard for the benefit of the public.

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	July & August 2024	Total to date 2024
Bathing Water Monitoring	92	168
Domestic Wastewater		
Treatment Plant Inspections (NIP Plan)	5 first inspection: 7 re-inspections.	45
Public queries processed regarding DWWTs grants	9	37
Monitoring Inspections of Section 4 licenced premises	20	58
Planning applications (Agriculture)	6	29
Planning applications (Domestic)	50	187
Planning applications (Large Developments)	10	18
Planning applications (Forestry)	2	41
Pollution complaints received	32	98
Private Commercial Drinking Water Supplies	0	22
Private/Public Group Water Scheme supplies	2	110
Rivers	2	133
Farm Inspections (NAIP) (Routine Planned & Unplanned)	22	42

Waste Enforcement

River Fergus Cleanup

The annual River Fergus cleanup took place in Ennis on July 16th 2024. July is the nominated month for this work, as river levels are traditionally at their lowest. The cleanup was a collaborative effort between Ennis Sub Aqua Club, Clare Civil Defence, Ennis Tidy Towns and Clare County Council's Environment Section. A considerable amount of rubbish including 4 shopping trolleys, 6 traffic cones, 3 bicycles, 2 couches and a bed were removed from the water. They were then transported by our Community Warden to the Central Waste Management Facility in Inagh. The Environment Section also provided gloves, bags and pickers for the cleanup.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT



The tables below summarise the work of the Waste Enforcement team in July and August 2024:

Waste Enforcement Complaints	July 2024	August 2024	Total YTD 2024
Litter	4	6	64
Dog Fouling	8	2	35
Waste Presentation	2	3	21
Dumping	78	56	511
CRM complaints (total)	170	175	1265

Waste Enforcement Inspections	July and August 2024
Cert of Registration	3
Waste Facility Permits	0
Unauthorised Sites	4

Annual Return Validations and Inspections of WFP/ COR Sites

Validations of Annual Returns submitted by permit holders for 2023 continues throughout August 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.

Beach Bye-Laws

The Beach Bye-Law patrols for 2024 are ongoing at weekends, to monitor compliance with the **Clare County Council Beach Bye-Laws 2021**. Our Wardens take a proactive approach in speaking with dog owners and reminding them of their responsibilities in respect of dog fouling. Our Warden also advise the public of appropriate ways to dispose of waste and litter properly.

Anti-dumping initiative at Ennis parks

A series of litter prevention measures were introduced in July at "Active Ennis" John O'Sullivan Park, Lees Road and "Active Ennis" Tim Smythe Park, under the Anti-Dumping Initiative 2024. The initiative aims to increase public awareness of litter pollution.

Meanwhile, Clare County Council is piloting the introduction of 'Big Belly' solar-powered litter bins at Lees Road. 'Big Belly' bins feature smart technology that informs facilities management crews of overall usage and when they are ready for emptying. One of the objectives of this is to improve waste segregation and recycling rates at the facility. 'General Waste' and 'Recycling' signage is being placed on existing blue and green litter bins throughout Lees Road and Tim Smythe Park.

Additional stencils advising dog owners to pick up dog waste were placed on pathways. An awareness Campaign was run using social media and the local newspaper, asking members of the public to take responsibility for their litter and to help keep Lees Road and Tim Smythe Park litter-free.

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

Inspections of 3 permitted and 4 unauthorised facilities were carried out by the Waste Enforcement team in July and August. Follow-up enforcement action is ongoing in the case of the unpermitted sites. The permitted sites were inspected to monitor compliance with their permit conditions, to achieve positive environmental outcomes for the receiving environments.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT



Waste management

Below is a table indicating waste materials collected at all our Civic Amenity Sites. As this is the first month that this table has been included, we have identified July figures only however next months we will add to this table to indicate the year-to-date weights collected.

Civic Amenity Site Waste Streams (KG)	
Item	July
Bulky items	57,460
Cardboard	20,260
Dry Recyclable	536
Glass	4
Green Waste	85,340
Mattresses	4,168
Municipal Waste	156,963
Plastic	31,080
Timber	128,460

Dog Shelter

The Environment Section have installed solar panels at the Dog Shelter at the Gort road. It is expected that the dog shelter will predominantly operate off this solar energy. We have also pro-

vided a battery system so that at night we can use this power source to provide heating and lighting in the building.



New regulations: XL bully dogs

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, has recently announced the introduction of new regulations regarding the ownership, breeding and sale of XL bully dogs. The Environment Section is commencing initial planning for the implementation of these Regulations.

From October 1st 2024, it will become illegal to breed from an XL bully dog, sell or exchange it. A Certificate of Exemption will be required by owners of XL bully dogs; an application form for this Certificate of Exemption will soon be available on the Council's website. The application period will be from October 2024 to March 2025. From March 31st 2025 it will be illegal to own an XL bully dog without a Certificate of Exemption. Where a person does not hold a valid Certificate of Exemption after the 31st of March or have proof of application for same, the dog will be seized and thereafter maybe euthanised by a veterinary officer on behalf of the local authority unless compliance with the regulations is subsequently proven.

Additional funding for the resourcing of Dog Warden services will also be available in 2025.

CLIMATE ACTION



Community Climate Action Programme

The Community Climate Action Programme received approval for funded projects from the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications in July. Twenty-three projects under Strand 1: 'Building Low Carbon Communities' were funded €572,000. Three projects were funded under Strand 1a of the

programme: 'Shared Island Community Climate Action.' The value of these projects is €236,636. 50% of this funding is for the Northern project partner. The Programme was launched in August with a number of the successful Community Groups attending Clare County Councils HQ.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT



BODYKE TIDY TOWNS €5,882.85	COROFIN TIDY TOWNS €6,500	INCH TIDY VILLAGE €766.31	SHANNON TIDY TOWNS €31,554
BRIDGE UNITED AFC €36,180	CRATLOE COMMUNITY COUNCIL €9,770	LISDOONVARNA FÁILTE €36,869	SMITH O'BRIEN'S GAA & CAMOGIE CLUB €65,000
CARRIGAHOLT DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION €30,259.66	DOONBEG TIDY TOWNS €9,194.14	MIKE MCTIGUE COMMUNITY CENTRE €8,284	ST. JOSEPH'S GAA MILTOWN MALBAY €30,000
CLARECASTLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT €11,994	ENNIS MEN'S SHED €38,058.26	OBAIR €7,964.25	WATERWORLD KILKEE €100,000
CLOONEY SPANCILHILL CDG €13,581	ENNIS TIDY TOWNS €20,000	RUAN TIDY TOWNS €3,788	WEST COAST SURF CLUB €9,249.09
COLLEGE GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION €1,047.74	INAGH DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION €80,000	SCARIFF RUGBY CLUB €12,507.70	

Groups Funded Under Strand 1

CLARE GAA / DERRY GAA €36,636	CRUSHEEN GAA / TRILICK GAC €100,000	FEAKLE GAA / GREENCASTLE GAA €100,000
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Groups Funded Under Strand 1a



Funded Projects - Small, Medium, Large, Strand 1a

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Community Climate Action Officer Dara Dever visited a number of the successful groups under phase one of the Community Climate Action Programme in August. This included meeting members of the project

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

Energy

Clare County Council along with a number of other local authorities & public bodies are working with Tipperary Energy Agency via the European funded TRESS project. This project will examine pathways towards the successful retrofit of public sector buildings. These buildings must be significant energy users and in that context Clare Co Co have put forward the Ennis Leisure Centre and Aras Chontae An Chlair for inclusion in the project. Workshops with Tipperary Energy Agency and Vivid Edge have occurred over the last number of months. The project will result in the completion of investment grade audits for both buildings.

Engagement & Awareness :

Mural: A vibrant new mural celebrating the endangered Marsh Fritillary Butterfly has been unveiled at the Design Bank in Miltown Malbay, housed in the historic old Bank of Ireland building. The artwork, created by Marcus O'Connor of Sufek West Murals, is part of a larger community project supported by Clare County Council's Climate Action Team and the Creative Communities Creative Ireland Programme. The Creative Communities Creative Ireland Programme is designed to enable people are work together to transform their communities, their lives and their environment through creativity.

The mural prominently features the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly, Ireland's only insect listed as a protected species under Annex II due to its high risk of extinction. The artwork also showcases native wildflowers, including the Devils Bit Scabious, and other local flora that are interdependent with the butterfly. These elements together highlight the fragile and beautiful ecosystem of Miltown Malbay, where a critical breeding site for the butterfly is located.



Ebikes

The Climate Action Team have identified that the use of ebikes for business travel is a potential area for increased use over the coming years. This will have staff benefits in the form of wellbeing and reduction in carbon associated with Clare County

Councils operations. In that context, the Climate team have developed a new onboarding and training platform for the use of ebikes around the organisation. Currently, there are ebikes in HQ, Buttermarket and each MD office. An online booking system in relation to the bikes has also been introduced.



Climate Newsletter

Clare County Councils Climate section launched a Clare Climate Action Newsletter this year. The newsletter provides updates on Climate action in the county, information on upcoming climate events and guidance to support residents, communities and businesses. The Clare Climate Action Newsletter is available to view and download on Climate Engagement Page on the YourSay Platform.

WATER

Rural Water

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.

Bodyke GWS

New booster pumps recently installed.

Bodyke/Raheen GWS, Carrowcore GWS, Inchovea Drumeevin GWS and Kildysart Coolmeen GWS

All four GWS were successful in their bids for emergency funding to the Department via this office.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Applications for Group Water Scheme annual subsidy which is available to fund operational costs of group water schemes providing water for domestic use continues to be processed by this office, 24 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, 26 applications have been received to date in 2024. Post works final inspections for 2023 works within the last 12 months are ongoing.

SHANNON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Clare FM Summer Tour broadcasts from Shannon and Clonlara

Shannon MD was delighted to welcome the Morning Focus Clare FM radio team to Shannon and Clonlara during the Summer. The popular and award-winning Morning Focus show was broadcast from the Shannon Library on 29th July 2024 and the Cathaoirleach of Shannon MD Councillor Pat O Gorman and Anne Griffin A/Senior Executive Officer were interviewed on the positive works being carried out in the Area. The show was a great opportunity to inform the radio listeners about the vital and important role that the MD plays in the Area in improving the quality of life for everyone in the District. On 15th August, the Morning Focus show also broadcast from Clonlara and Cllr Michael Begley and Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer were on hand to showcase the beneficial and impactful works in that part of the County.

There were many varied and interesting guests interviewed from both Shannon and Clonlara and we thank them all for their participation.



PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Main Street and Church Street in Clonlara; Recently completed overlay and reinstatement of road markings. This follows on from the Town and Village renewal project completed earlier this year and completes the intended works for this area for Clonlara Village. This was funded through our Restoration Improvement Fund allocation from the Dept of Transport.



Parteen; Creation of a Community Space. A bench and community notice board has been introduced, located at the crossroads in Parteen. They have been complemented with a bicycle rack and a bicycle storage unit to support Active Travel in the area. This was an initiative of the local community and is funded through CLAGS, GMA and own resources.



Westbury Estate; New Road Markings introduced. Continuing our approach to improving Traffic Calming within Westbury.



Carrig Lia, Shannon; Road overlay complete. This follows a footpath upgrade earlier this year, the combined works revamps the estate. This was funded through our Restoration Improvement fund allocation from the Dept of Transport.



School Road, Parteen; Traffic Lights installed as part of the Parteen Footpath project introducing a safe walking route to the school. This project is fully funded through own resources.



All Ireland 2024; signage and bunting erected throughout Brian Lohan's hometown, wishing the team good luck for the match.



Mountievers, Sixmilebridge; Overlay completed during August for this housing estate road in Sixmilebridge, benefiting 60 households. This was funded through our Restoration Improvement fund allocation from the Dept of Transport.



Other Works carried out during July & August in the Municipal District;

- road sweeping, road repairs, footpath repairs, green area maintenance, playground maintenance.
- Drainage maintenance works on going throughout July & August, including the use of a large vacuum tanker in Westbury.
- Road markings maintenance works in Westbury, Parteen, Shannon and Sixmilebridge.

St. John's N.S. Shannon; works to reinstate a raised turning area has commenced. This will introduce a Traffic Calming measure adjacent to the national school, continuing our commitment to safety at the school and follows from the raised table crossing installed earlier this year.

