



COMHAIRLE | CLARE  
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

## TUARASCÁIL MHÍOSÚIL ÓN PHRÍOMHFHEIDHMEANNACH

### MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Deireadh Fómhair / October  
2025



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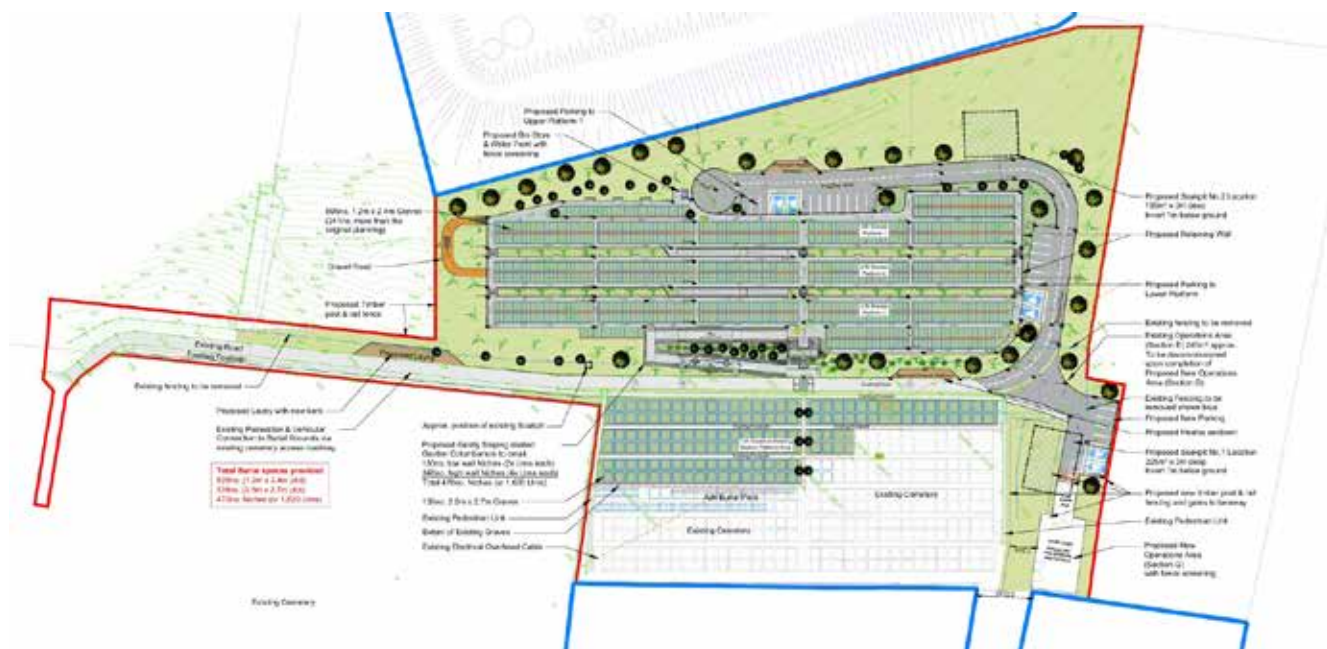
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**Tionscadal Éireann**  
Project Ireland  
**2040**

Cnoc Na Scoile Residents group and the Ennis West Mens Shed are teaming up to boost communication and support biodiversity in their community. Their first project is the creation of a community notice board that will be installed in the estate, making it easier for everyone to stay informed. The notice board will be crafted by the talented members of the Shed in Cloughleigh. This collaboration has been made possible through the support of Clare County Council's, Rural Development Directorate, which encourages communities to collaborate and create positive change together.



The Burial Grounds Unit are progressing plans to extend the county burial ground at Drumcliff, Ennis. The proposed development is designed to address the growing need for burial space and aims to enhance the existing burial ground while creating a tranquil and reflective environment. The plan includes an addition of 413 double plots, including provision for ash plots, to meet the increasing demand for burial space. Additionally, a future Columbarium Wall is proposed which can contain up to 470 niches. The proposed extension aims to create a modern lawn cemetery that responds to the needs of our community. The design is driven by principles of accessibility and looks to promote biodiversity through the provision of planting and trees. An application to extend Drumcliff Burial Ground was submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála in September.



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### HEALTHY CLARE

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#### Healthy Clare/Creative Ireland Micro Fund 2025

A number of Healthy Clare micro funded projects were completed during the month of September.

- **Clare Traveller Community Development Project: Gym Wellbeing Project.**

This programme is co-funded by Healthy Clare and Clare Local Development Company and takes place in Active Ennis facilities. The gym initiative is designed for 10 Traveller men, emphasising the importance of mental health, physical health, and social inclusion. The project commenced with the aim of fostering a supportive environment that promotes overall well-being through fitness and at a mid point review it was found that the gym programme for Traveller men is achieving its objectives by making strides in physical fitness, supporting mental health, and encouraging inclusion. *'The initiative not only improved physical health metrics but also significantly contributed to the mental and emotional well-being of the participants. Continued support and expansion of such programmes are essential for sustaining these benefits and promoting a healthier more inclusive lifestyle in the Traveller community.'*

- **West Limerick Resources, Social Farming:**

Social Farming is the practice of offering activity on family farms as a form of Social Support service. In Social Farming the farm remains a working farm at its core but invites people to participate in the day to day activities on the farm.

Three participants were supported to engage in Social Farming activity with farms in Feakle and Inagh because of the Healthy Clare Micro Fund. The evaluation showed that *'All participants are thoroughly enjoying their social farming placement and positively engaging in health enhancing activities.'*

- **Lisdoonvarna Failte Fitness Programme: Lisdoonvarna**

Failte ran a series of fun, inclusive fitness programmes to support the community to develop an awareness of how to live well through movement and social engagement. Activity included Zumba classes and mindful movement.

- **Peer Led Wellness Café Walks:**

Supported under the Healthy Clare Micro Fund, Creative Ireland collaboration, The Peer Led Wellness Café has completed a series of wellbeing walks engaging local historian Dr Jane O'Brien. on the 8th of September. Feedback from the walks has been very positive and the café hopes that social opportunities beyond the café can be explored over the coming months.

#### Events and Collaboration

##### Women in Business Networking Event



Healthy Clare attended the Clare Local Enterprise Office Women in Business Network event on 3rd September. This event provided the Healthy Clare programme with an opportunity to showcase some of the campaigns that local business can become involved with such as 'Living Well Through the Menopause', 'We're Breastfeeding Friendly Clare' and 'Not Around Us'.

##### Corofin Positive Aging and Wellness Fair

Hosted by Corofin North Clare Agricultural Show and Clare Age Friendly Programme, Healthy Clare attended the Positive Aging and Wellness Fair on Saturday 6th of September. The event provided an excellent opportunity to promote Healthy Clare and network with key services within the community.

##### O'Gonnelloe Wellbeing Event

Hosted by Clare Age Friendly Programme, Healthy Clare presented at the a wellbeing workshop, held in O'Gonnelloe on Tuesday 9th of September. Like the North Clare event, the event provided an excellent opportunity to promote Healthy Clare and network with key services within the community. Opportunities for collaboration between Clare Age Friendly Programme and Healthy Clare were also promoted.

##### Transport for Ireland Local Link Walkability Study



On the 10th September, Healthy Clare supported a Walkability Study with Transport for Ireland Local Link and the Clare Age Friendly programme. This morning activity provided and opportunity to learn how such initiatives can support the development of more accessible spaces.



### Health and Wellbeing Page Clare Echo



Recent features, highlighting services in the the Health and Wellbeing page include:

- **World Suicide Prevention Day** - Wednesday, 10th September  
A global public health day raising awareness and understanding about suicide prevention. The page highlighted the National Office of Suicide Prevention, Clare Suicide Bereavement Support Service and the Samaritans.
- **Pride month** - As Pride continues to grow in Clare, GOSHH and QuareClare invited everyone to join in the celebration and stand together for equality, inclusion, and love.
- **September is Heart Month and 29th September is World Heart Day** With heart disease remaining as a leading cause of death and illness in Ireland, with thousands of people affected by conditions such as heart failure, heart attacks and arrhythmias, the Clare cardiology chronic disease management services were highlighted toward the end of September.
- **National Walking Day** - 29th September alongside European week of sport. Pat Sexton of Clare Sports Partnership took the opportunity to highlight programmes that engage men through sport, in particular the Men on the Move programme.
- **Upcoming Positive Aging Week and the Clare Age Friendly Expo** which will take place on Thursday 2nd of October were highlighted by Shanelle Waring, Clare Age Friendly Programme manager.

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

### Age Friendly Universities

On 2nd September 2025, the Clare Age Friendly Programme proudly participated in the Age Friendly University initiative meeting - a pivotal moment in Ireland's journey toward inclusive education.

The University of Limerick is set to become the first institution in the country to adopt the World Health Organization's four-stage process in pursuit of official recognition as an Age Friendly University. This structured approach includes commitment, assessment, planning, and implementation - all aimed at creating a welcoming, accessible, and enriching environment for learners of all ages.

This collaboration marks a transformative step forward in promoting lifelong learning, intergenerational engagement, and age-inclusive policies within higher education. Clare's involvement underscores the region's dedication to championing age-friendly values across communities and institutions.



### Cultural Companions Event

On September 4th, the Cultural Companion group came together for a lively and enriching day filled with creativity, movement, and local charm. The event kicked off with registration and a captivating walking tour of Ennis, where participants uncovered the town's hidden stories and historical gems. Trish Cleary then guided attendees through gentle chair yoga sessions, offering a moment of calm and connection. Artistic inspiration continued with pottery demonstrations by Oak House Ceramics and candle-making insights from Gealach Candles. Adding a seasonal touch, Andrea O'Regan led a hands-on autumn wreath-making workshop, where participants crafted beautiful, nature-inspired decorations to celebrate the changing season. The day was a perfect blend of discovery, artistry, and community spirit.



### North Clare Positive Aging & Wellness Fair

The North Clare Positive Ageing and Wellness Event took place on Saturday, September 6th, and was met with an enthusiastic and high turnout from the local community. Designed to promote health, wellbeing, and active ageing, the event offered a full day of engaging presentations, physical activities, and opportunities for social connection. The day began with a warm welcome and opening remarks from Joe Killeen, setting a positive tone for the sessions ahead. Carmel Burke, the event coordinator, guided attendees through the day with care and attentiveness, offering both the initial health and safety briefing and closing thanks.

Throughout the event, participants enjoyed multiple exercise sessions led by Niall and Trish Cleary, which encouraged movement and physical engagement. Sharon Cahir of Cahir Solicitors in Ennis provided valuable legal insights tailored to older adults, followed by an interactive Q&A. Consultant Nutritionist Grainne Travers shared expert advice on healthy eating and lifestyle choices, while Sgt Cathriona Houlihan from the Clare Crime Prevention Unit and Ronan Buntung of Task Community Care addressed safety and support services available to the ageing population. Jenny O'Mara, Social Worker for the Older Person with Eimear Sutton Horan on the Clare Home and Day Care Services, concluded the speaker lineup with a thoughtful overview of care services and support networks in the region.

Overall, the event was a resounding success, reflecting the strength and vibrancy of the North Clare community. It fostered awareness, empowerment, and connection among older adults, and highlighted the value of collaboration in promoting wellness and ageing with dignity.

### Healthy Ireland

Healthy Ireland Local Government hosted a national two-day conference - "Building Resilient Futures through Local Government" September 11th -12th 2025, in the SETU Arena, Waterford

The conference brought together leaders, planners, and officials across local government to explore how Ireland's local authorities can lead and collaborate more effectively to address health inequalities and the wider determinants of wellbeing. With a strong focus on breaking down silos, creating joined-up opportunities, and harnessing evidence and place-based tools, the event aims to inspire transformative local action for healthier, more resilient communities. The objectives of the Conference was to

- Enable local government to act as strategic leaders in integrating policy for impact,
- Promote integration across policy strands and Directorates
- Build capacity for using tools for transformation like the Place Standard and Healthy Ireland Data Portal.
- Encourage a move towards collaborative community resilience

#### Speakers included:

Minister of State, Mary Butler TD who launched the Healthy Ireland Local Government Data Portal, Sean Mc Keown Chief Executive Waterford City & County Council, Maarten Nijpels (City of Rotterdam), Kristen Guidan (London Resilience), Dr Tony Holohan (WHO & UCD), John Howie (Public Health Scotland) and Roisin Markham (Irish Doughnut Economic Network)



*Samantha Mc Carthy(Healthy Clare Coordinator), Shanelle Waring (Age Friendly Coordinator), John Howie Public Health Scotland Bernadette Haugh (Senior Executive Officer Rural Development), Maarten Nijpels (City of Rotterdam), & Catherine O'Hara (Rural Development)*

## CORPORATE SERVICES

### Freedom of Information & Data Protection:

Previous years and 2025 to date - statistics to 29th September 2025

|                                                                | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Freedom of Information Requests                                | 152  | 176  | 119  | 156  | 135  | 133  |
| Freedom of Information Internal Review Applications            | 6    | 13   | 8    | 4    | 5    | 5    |
| Appeals handled by Information Commissioner                    | 1    | 4    | 2    | 4    | 4    | 0    |
| Data Access Requests - Subject Access Request                  | 5    | 6    | 10   | 10   | 13   | 9    |
| Data Requests - Erasure Request                                | 0    | 1    | 1    | 2    | 0    | 1    |
| Data Access Requests - Third Party Access Requests e.g. Gardaí | 20   | 27   | 27   | 29   | 29   | 21   |

### Communications

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

11 media releases were issued during September 2025, including:

- Minister Dooley Officially Opens Inis Cealtra Visitor Experience

- Clare County Council Seeks Community Voices for New Safety Partnership
- Irish Open Drives Clare to the Fore of Irish Sport Tourism Once Again

### Social Media

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

In the period 1-24 September 2025, the Communications Office:

- Posted 55 times on Facebook, with total followers now 23,413.
- Posted 14 times on X (formerly Twitter), with total followers over 8.8K.
- 44 Posts on Instagram followers are now 5,100.

*(Statistics accurate as of 24/09/2025)*

### Register of Electors

The volume of applications for voter registration has increased, in advance of the Presidential Election. The closing date for receipt of applications is 7th October.

Project work on Register of Electors database also continues in the Franchise Section, in advance of the migration to a national database.

## CULTURAL SERVICES - LIBRARY, ARTS, MUSEUM & ARCHIVES MANAGEMENT

### Clare Libraries



*Councillor Paul Murphy, Cathaoirleach, with library staff at the Pop-up literacy event in Kilkee Library*

Clare Libraries launched their Skills for life programme in September. The programme will offer support in six key areas: Basic Digital Skills, Financial Literacy, Media Literacy, Business and Employment Skills, Health Awareness and Sustainable Lifestyles and Environmental Awareness. The initiative started with a programme of sustainability events in 5 libraries throughout the month.

Clare Libraries marked International Literacy Day on 8th September with a number of events including a Pop-up literacy event in Kilkee Library. Over 70 people attended the event which also included a session on using AI in everyday life.



*Mayors of Clare and Ennis on their bikes for National Public Libraries Day in Clare.*

Clare Libraries participated in national Public Libraries Open day on 27th September. This nationwide campaign invites the public - both members and non-members to 'take a closer look' at what services and resources libraries have to offer. Events on the day included bike repair workshops, a tour of De Valera Library, a book hunt in Scariff Library and a Shannon Development Photographic Archive exhibition in Shannon Library.



*Handcrafted signpost in Scariff Library*

The total number of events in libraries over the Summer are listed below.

### Library Activities in Figures

|                                                                      |       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Total number of in branch events                                     | 151   |
| Total audiences at in branch events                                  | 1,875 |
| Total number of outreach events                                      | 10    |
| Total audiences at outreach events                                   | 46    |
| Total number of deliveries to homes                                  | 10    |
| Total number of Little Library Bags issued for those starting school | 11    |

### IT classes and services

Drop-in digital sessions are available in the following libraries: Corofin, Kilkee, Killaloe, Kilrush, Miltown Malbay, Newmarket on Fergus, Scariff, Shannon and Sixmilebridge. Library members can call into the libraries at a designated time and receive one to one digital skills support.

Smart phone classes began in De Valera Library, Ennis.

Library staff dealt with 1,341 IT related queries this month.

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

|                      |                             |                                           |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 2,159<br>E-Books     | 4,848<br>E-Audiobooks       | 16,587 ePress<br>(magazines & newspapers) |
| 90 Online<br>Courses | 33 Transparent<br>Languages |                                           |

## Marketing & Social media

There were two media releases this month for “Skills for life” and “National Public Libraries Open day”. There was one radio interview on Clare FM. Printed material included programmes for “History Week” and “Children’s Book Festival”.

## Library Social Media activity

|                                                                                   | Total Followers | New Followers | Post Reach/ Impressions | Post Likes/ Reactions |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
|  | 8,711           | 54            | 22,393                  | 56,233                |
|  | 2,921           | 50            | 13,420                  | 388                   |

## Children's Services and Right to Read.



*Young library member attending the Books at Bedtime event in Scariff Library*

The “**Books at Bedtime**” initiative ran from 20th August to 18 September. Each child in Clare aged 3 and under was offered a free copy of the book 'Say Goodnight Like This' by Mary Murphy to read together with their parents at bedtime. Parents also received information on how to establish a good bedtime reading routine and the benefits of reading to your child at an early age.

**Children's Book Festival** - a whole month of library based activities for children was launched, with a full programme of over 40 events scheduled for October throughout the county. Primary School classes are invited to attend workshops, talks, theatre productions and author visits with some of Ireland's best loved children's authors and storytellers.

## Skills for Life

There were 53 Skills for life events in Clare libraries this month. They included

- 40 drop-in digital sessions and 1 smart phone class.
- 7 Sustainability events
- 4 media literacy events
- 2 Health awareness events

## Healthy Ireland

A walk-in health check was organized in collaboration with HSE nurses as part of the recent Pop-up literacy event in Kilkee Library.

Attendees were offered complimentary blood pressure checks, diabetes screening, and general health advice. A total of 55 individuals participated in the community health initiative. Shannon Library hosted a talk with Mental Health Ireland on the topic of ‘*The Five Ways to Wellbeing*.’ This talk offers practical steps to people to improve their mental health and lead a more balanced and fulfilling life.

## Creative Ireland Programme

The Clare Culture and Creativity Team, which includes representatives from the Library, Arts, Heritage, Local Enterprise Office, Climate Action, Biodiversity, Museum, Healthy Clare, Local Studies, and Rural Development sections of our Council, receive funding from Creative Ireland to support the development of cultural and creative initiatives throughout the county. This funding enables the team to strengthen community engagement and enhance creative capacity through a wide range of programmes and projects. Among the projects supported were the Cultural Companions Creative Event at Temple Gate Hotel, delivered by the Age Friendly Team, and the Heritage Office's programme “Reading Your Local Landscape”, a course designed to explore Clare's natural, built, and cultural heritage.

Creative Ireland also supported a multidisciplinary event titled “Lost in Briars”, which featured a panel discussion on the evolving relationship with the bramble - one of Ireland's most common plants - and its ecological and cultural significance. The event included a Botanical Art Class facilitated by Jane Carkill and a live music performance by Simon O'Reilly, both of which focused on the bramble and its fruit, the blackberry. This event was held at the Courthouse Gallery in Ennistymon.

In addition, Creative Ireland funded the creative workshops for Music Generation's Folk Festival. This inclusive festival promoted participation, education, and heritage, offering young musicians the opportunity to engage in collaborative learning and perform alongside professional artists.

Two Culture Night events also received support from Creative Ireland Clare. The first, “Seal le Ceri” in Scéal Eile Books, was an Irish language event where artist Ceri Garfield discussed her artistic practice and presented her work. The second featured North Clare Refugee Allstars, a unique musical collaboration with asylum seeker musicians living in IPAS centres across County Clare, who performed in Shannon in collaboration with Mná le Chéile Women's Shed and developed in partnership with Clare Local Development Company and the Clare Immigrant Support Centre.

## Local Studies and Archives

Local Studies and Archives have received a donation of documents relating to the Vandeleur estate in Kilrush. These date from the 1790s to the 1920s and contain a wealth of detail on the running of the estate. Thanks to the Noctor family of Limerick for the donation. A donation of books relating to the history of Clare was donated by the Collins family of Clare Road. This collection belonged to Michael Collins, a prominent local historian. A presentation was given to the Women's PROBUS group, on the holdings in the Local Studies and Archives Centre.

A collection of papers relating to the Creagh family of Dangan, Quin, was donated to Archives. The ongoing cataloguing of the Holohan Collection has uncovered an interesting find, a letter from the Clare MP William Redmond.

## Clare Museum

The Museum winter lecture series has been finalised with lectures taking place between October to May 2026. The temporary O'Connell Exhibition is on view at the museum. Four new items were added to the long-term exhibition, replacing items that have been on display since the museum opened. A blog on two of the items was written and placed on the museum website.

A further 27 objects were catalogued onto the Museum database, bringing the total for the year to 248. There were 46 new items photographed and uploaded to the museum website and there were five social media posts during the month.

## Clare Arts Office



*Emain Ablach paying in the Attic in Doolin Hotel*

Culture Night took place on Friday 19th September with thousands of people enjoying the arts in over 15 towns and villages across Clare with 17 events in Ennis. There were over 45 free events to enjoy and was truly 'One night for all' with events for all ages and abilities included on the programme. Highlights include Súil's first

ever culture night events, a collage workshop with Súil's own Aoife Byrne and Under the Ambient. A live mixed film from João Tudella with a live soundtrack by Simon O'Reilly, Aisling Lyons and Dermot Sheedy (synths and electronics). The event "Emain Ablach" took place in The Attic in Doolin Hotel and treated audiences to a suite of music composed by award-winning musician and composer Neil Ó Lochlainn and performed by a thrilling 10-piece ensemble featuring some of the best musicians in the country.

Súil, art gallery, welcomed 656 visitors from August 13th – September 22nd including 55 at the exhibition opening of SIÚNTA. Súil began advertising its end of year show, ANNUAL OPEN 2025, which invites emerging and established artists to submit one work in any medium of their choice. Cultúrlann Sweeney Kilkee was very busy in September with the Kikee Arts Festival, the Kilkee Playwrights Festival, the 1950's Festival and performances by the young members of the local theatre company Crack'd Spoon. Clare Youth Theatre started back with a full house. A total of 48 members have registered with a waitlist in operation for both under 12s and over 12s groups. A new Kilkee Youth Theatre due to start in October is booked out. The final Riches of Clare concert of the year took place at Feakle Trad Festival.

The Arts Officer held five support and advice meetings with local artists and arts organisations in September and launched the "Meet the Makers" Exhibition in glór. She participated in the development of the new Music Generation Clare strategy. Street art and murals were completed in Ennis, Ennistymon and Lisdoonvarna as part of the PRISM scheme. Three exhibitions took place in Kilkee, Scariff and Ennis and one new artist took up residence at the EASI Studios in Ennis.

The Arts Officer had two slots this month on Clare FM.

## Social Media

| Facebook 25/08/25-21/09/25 |        |            |                    |                 |
|----------------------------|--------|------------|--------------------|-----------------|
|                            | Views  | Post reach | New Page followers | Total followers |
| Clare Arts Office          | 27,582 | 7,833      | 26                 | 3,595           |
| Cultúrlann Sweeney         | 19,548 | 6,015      | 12                 | 2,202           |
| CYT - Clare Youth Theatre  | 477    | 63         | 3                  | 600             |
| Riches of Clare            | 5,646  | 3,289      | 19                 | 3,092           |
| Clare culture night        | 15,628 | 6,431      | 22                 | 1,330           |
| Arts In Clare Group        |        |            |                    | 3,755           |
| Clare trad Group           |        |            |                    | 2,933           |
| Instagram 23/12/24-20/1/25 |        |            |                    |                 |
| Account                    | views  | Followers  | reach              |                 |
| Clare Arts Office          | 13,613 | 1,090      | 3,255              |                 |
| Culture Night              | 14,767 | 276        | 4,180              |                 |
| Súil                       | 28,002 | 387        | 3,221              |                 |

## KILLALOE MD

The Schedule of Works 2025 carried out by the Municipal District under its road maintenance and road improvement programme include, pavement repairs, surface dressing, white lining, road signage, drainage works, grass and verge trimming along routes is coming to a conclusion with an additional roads incorporated into the original schedule of works including - Caproe L-8052, Knockdonagh-Truagh L-3048 and Lackabranner bridge.

With the allocation of supplementary funding, an additional Local Improvement Schemes (LIS) project was approved for Ballyvorgal. Furthermore, all four Community Involvement Schemes, Oatfield, Glenboniffe, Clashduff & Ballyscanlan are on track for completion within the next two weeks.

*Road making works on Leaghort*



*Local Improvement Scheme works in Ballyvorgal*



*CIS Ballyscanlan*



*Newgrove RI project*



*Cleaning of grass and verge of the Sunnagh - Derrycaliff road in preparation for surface dressing*



The Specific Improvement project at Ogonnelloe valued at €220k has now entered the Section 38 public consultation phase. The proposal includes the installation of traffic calming measures based on the detailed design submitted by the Road Design team. Submissions are invited until 4:00 p.m. on Monday 20th of October 2025.

In terms of drainage works, five out of eleven projects have been successfully completed. Crews will continue work on the remaining six projects over the next two months

**Below is a sample of Road Works projects;**

*Site Investigation being conducted Climate change funding stream on the Dereney in Whitegate*



*Replacing junction definition bollards on Regional Roads funded directly by the Killaloe MD own resources.*



*The Weedpicker operated by Mikey Ryan on the paths in Killaloe. A chemical-free machine designed to remove moss, grass and weeds from pavements, paths and patios.*



# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

## HOUSING

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

### Clare County Council Housing Grants online application

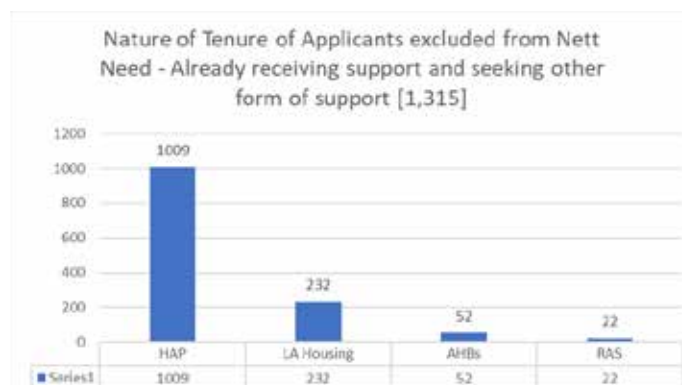
Our Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and Disabled People are now available online through our website. This is part of our ongoing efforts to reduce paperwork, improve the speed of grant processing, and allow applicants to see the progress of their grant throughout our approval process.

### Social Housing Demand

The highest demand throughout the county remains for 1 and 2-bedroomed properties. There are 2,219 applicant households (79%) who have a requirement for this property type.

2-bedroomed properties. There are 2,219 applicant households (79%) who have a requirement for this property type.

| Current Housing need as of 29/09/2025 |       |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Total Households on List              | 2,804 |
| Transfer Applicants (see below)       | 1,315 |
| Net Need                              | 1,489 |



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

| Count of<br>FIRST AREA OF CHOICE | BEDS APPROVED |            |              |              |
|----------------------------------|---------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
|                                  | 1 and 2 beds  | 3 beds     | 4 and 5 beds | Total        |
| ENNIS                            | 990           | 170        | 67           | 1227         |
| SHANNON                          | 171           | 34         | 13           | 218          |
| CLARECASTLE                      | 166           | 28         | 7            | 201          |
| INAGH/ENNISTYMON/LAHINCH         | 118           | 20         | 7            | 145          |
| KILRUSH                          | 94            | 16         | 7            | 117          |
| FEAKLE/SCARIFF/WHITEGATE         | 86            | 23         | 2            | 111          |
| MEELICK/PARTEEN/WESTBURY         | 65            | 26         | 11           | 102          |
| COROFIN/RUAN                     | 71            | 15         | 1            | 87           |
| MILTOWN MALBAY/MULLAGH/QUILTY    | 70            | 9          | 2            | 81           |
| KILKEE/CROSS/CARRIGAHOLT         | 55            | 14         | 2            | 71           |
| NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS              | 52            | 12         | 2            | 66           |
| KILLALOE                         | 46            | 15         | 2            | 63           |
| LISDOONVARNA/BALLYVAUGHAN        | 42            | 9          | 3            | 54           |
| SIXMILEBRIDGE                    | 37            | 12         | 3            | 52           |
| COORACLARE/DOONBEG               | 34            | 8          | 6            | 48           |
| CLONLARA                         | 28            | 9          | 1            | 38           |
| TULLA/KILKISHEN/BROADFORD        | 30            | 7          | 0            | 37           |
| KILDYSART/BALLYNACALLY           | 22            | 5          | 3            | 30           |
| QUIN                             | 18            | 4          | 2            | 24           |
| KILMIHIL                         | 9             | 4          | 2            | 15           |
| KILMALEY                         | 11            | 1          | 0            | 12           |
| KILFENORA                        | 4             | 1          | 0            | 5            |
| <b>Grand Total</b>               | <b>2,219</b>  | <b>442</b> | <b>143</b>   | <b>2,804</b> |

## Newly Qualified Applicants



*Leanne Cahill receiving the keys to her new home from Marie Dillon Estate Manager*

## Housing Allocations

### New Development at Beal an Inbhir Kilrush

The Allocation process in relation to the new social housing development situated at Beal an Inbhir, Kilrush is completed, and the new tenants received the keys to their new homes on 22nd September last. This development which was advertised on the CBL website in early September attracted 80 bids for the 3 bedroomed and 131 bids for the 2 bedroomed bouses. The 8 units allocated comprise 4 no 3 bedroomed houses and 4 no 2 bedroomed houses. This is phase 1 of this development and phase 2 will be advertised later this year.



*Joan Leahy Account Manager presenting the keys of his new home to Paul Danaher*



### 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. The sale of seven properties under the tenant purchase scheme completed in 2024. Seven properties have been sold to date in 2025. It is expected that more sales will be completed in Q4 of 2025.

Having consulted with elected members in relation to maintaining our newer stock we have agreed that properties purchased or built since 1st January 2016 will not be available for sale under this scheme. This can be reviewed at end of

current Housing Delivery Plan period in 2026. We have also agreed that 1-bedroom properties and specially adapted units will not be available under the scheme.

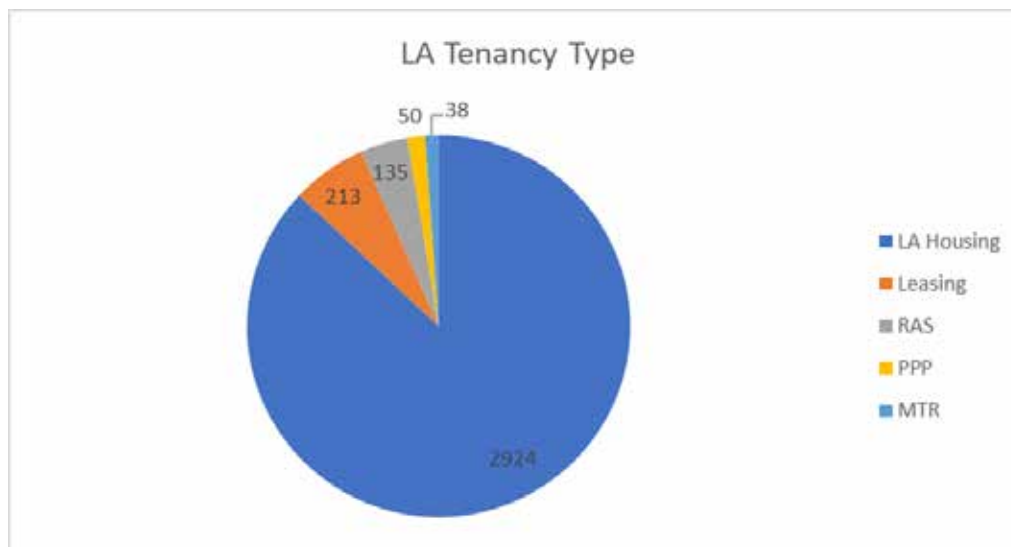
### Traveller Accommodation

Clare County Council continue to progress our Traveller Accommodation Program [TAP] 2025 - 2029. We held our third LTACC meeting of 2025 on 24th September, 2025 and welcomed 2 new Traveller Representatives onto the Committee. Training for the LTACC is being scheduled for November 2025.

## Housing Tenancies:

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

| 29th September, 2025 |           |              |              |
|----------------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| MD                   | Allocated | Occupied     | Total        |
| Ennis MD             | 5         | 1,277        | 1,282        |
| Killaloe MD          | 0         | 368          | 368          |
| Shannon MD           | 5         | 751          | 756          |
| West Clare MD        | 6         | 971          | 977          |
| <b>Grand Total</b>   | <b>16</b> | <b>3,367</b> | <b>3,383</b> |



There are 133 RAS tenancies and 214 lease tenancies (126 long-term and 88 short-term leases). There are 1,009 HAP tenancies. Approved Housing Bodies are providing approximately 1,010 tenancies to Social Housing Applicants. Clare County Council have full nomination rights in respect of the majority of AHB properties, except where they provide a portion of the capital funding from their own resources. These properties are advertised via our Choice Based Letting System. Nominations are prepared in accordance with a new National Process agreed by LAs and the AHB sector and commenced in July 2022.

## Vacancies:

| Vacant Stock     | Ennis MD  | West Clare MD | Shannon MD | Killaloe MD | Total     |
|------------------|-----------|---------------|------------|-------------|-----------|
| Traveller Accom. | 5         | 7             | 1          | 0           | 13        |
| Projects         | 5         | 4             | 1          | 2           | 12        |
| Casual Vacancies | 36        | 18            | 6          | 13          | 73        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>     | <b>46</b> | <b>29</b>     | <b>8</b>   | <b>15</b>   | <b>98</b> |

## Estate Management

The Estate Management Team continues to undertake regular routine and response calls to tenants, to deal with queries as well as inspecting properties and providing the necessary advice and support. The team is extremely active in carrying out

tenancy visits. It should be noted that the no. of visits carried out is testament to the more proactive approach being taken by the team in engaging with tenants.

Any matters that need to be brought to the attention of the Estate Management unit can be done so by emailing [asb@clarecoco.ie](mailto:asb@clarecoco.ie). Listed hereunder are details of work being undertaken by the Estate Management team this year to date.

|                                                     | Total year to date |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Complaints rec'd in relation to breaches of Tenancy | 429                |
| Referrals to TSS (including Tulsa)                  | 28                 |
| Tenancy Notifications/Warnings issued               | 33                 |
| Abandonment Notices issued                          | 7                  |
| Keys collected from Casual Vacancies                | 40                 |
| Repossession Orders                                 | 0                  |

The team carry out continued patrols of Local Authority housing estates and traveller accommodation sites and have a very visible presence to manage any issues arising. Proactive engagement with tenants also takes place to help prevent anti-social behaviour, to facilitate the inspection of local authority sites, to arrange specific meetings with tenants, as well as general engagement with local communities.

### Private Rented inspections:

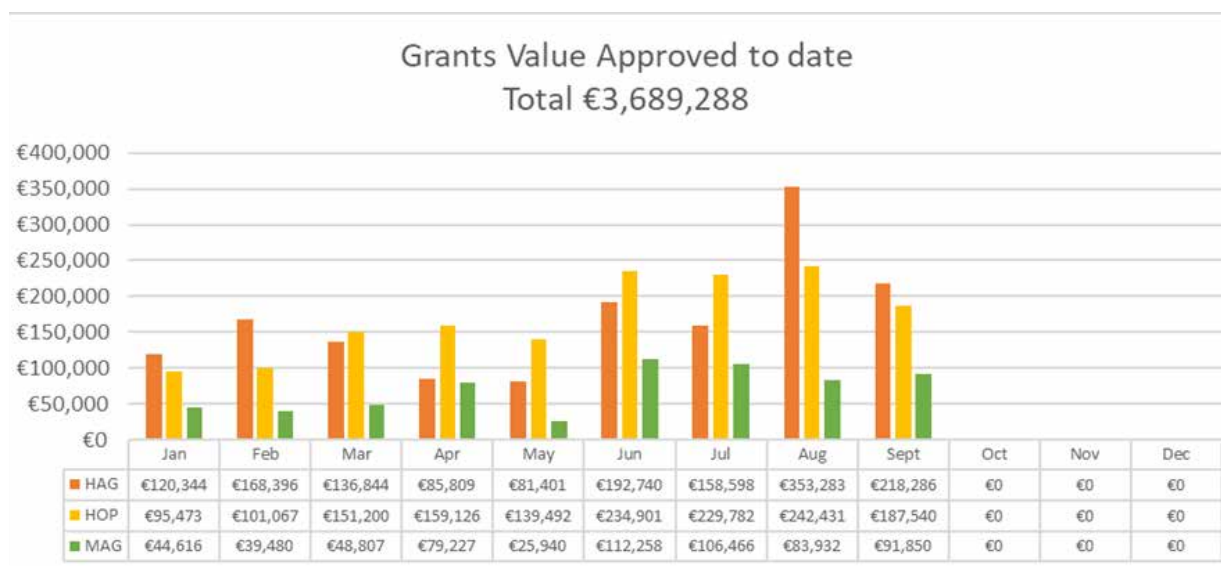
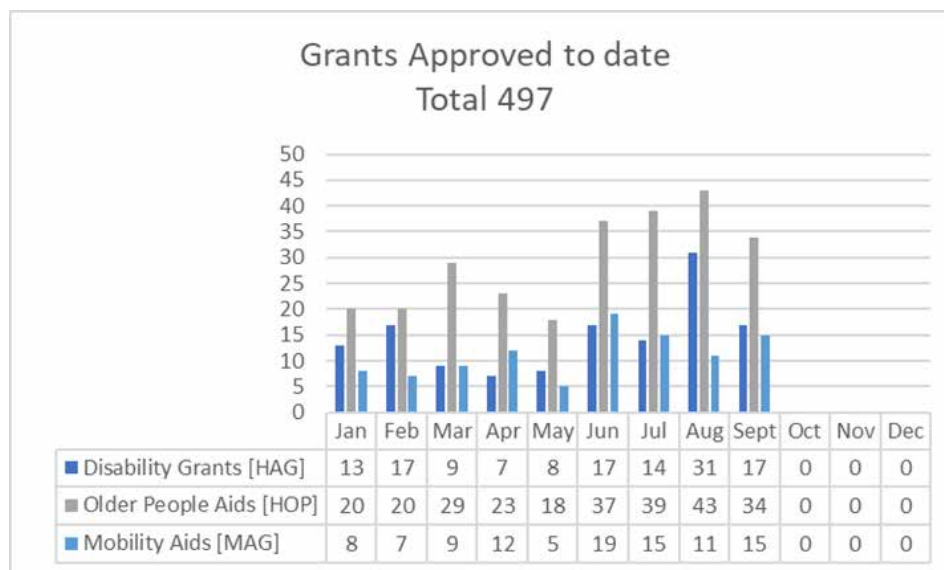
Inspections are carried out on HAP, Private Rented, RAS and Leased properties, as well as in response to complaints that are received. The team continue to follow up where properties do not meet the minimum rented standards and have inspected 682 properties to date this year.

### Housing Grants:

A big demand continues to exist for the Housing Adaptation Grant for Older People and Disabled People. There are 497 grants approved to date this year and we are approaching our current annual budget allocation. This may result in further approvals being delayed until 2026. Details of these grants are available on Clare County Council's website. We encourage applicants to apply online through the following link:

[Housing grants | Housing | Services | Clare County Council](#)

### Grants Approved 2025:



### Local Authority Home Loan

Full details on the Local Authority Home Loan (LAHL) and eligibility criteria including the Loan Calculator and Information Booklet can be found on [www.localauthorityhomeloan.ie](http://www.localauthorityhomeloan.ie). There are currently 74 Local Authority Home Loans Approved in Principle. Updated figures are outlined as follows:

19 Applications  
received to date in  
2025

40 Applications  
received in 2024

74 Local Authority  
Loans Approved

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

## Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Loan

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

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

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

## The Homeless Action Team

The number of presentations to the Homeless Action Team including complex cases continue to rise. This continues to place immense pressure on the Homeless Action Team on a monthly basis.

Prevention and support remain a key factor in the workings of the Homeless Action Team. Several single and family household presentations worked with staff around prevention options and supports, which in turn averted the need for emergency accommodation and avoided entering homeless services. HAP services have increased this quarter with a small increase in those accessing and availing of HAP supports. Other individuals and families were supported in accessing emergency accommodation either within our services or through private establishments.

The Homeless Action Team continues to pursue additional emergency accommodation options at a time when accommodation is in high demand generally.

## Homeless Services [Homeless Action Team HAT]

Clare Homeless Action team continues to engage with all necessary stakeholders, service providers and local supports to adopt a collaborative approach to the tackling of Homelessness.

## Emergency Accommodation Status as of 5th September 2025

|                     | Families  | Adults    | Dependents | Providers |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| Laurel Lodge        | 0         | 13        | 0          | 1         |
| Laurel Lodge (apts) | 0         | 4         | 0          | 1         |
| Cusack Lodge        | 5         | 7         | 8          | 1         |
| Westbrook           | 0         | 16        | 0          | 1         |
| Ashford Court       | 5         | 8         | 6          | 1         |
| Clann Nua           | 0         | 9         | 0          | 1         |
| EA Families         | 8         | 12        | 21         | 6         |
| EA Individuals      | 0         | 22        | 0          | 10        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>        | <b>18</b> | <b>91</b> | <b>35</b>  | <b>22</b> |

## Exits from Homeless Services:

Clare Homeless Action Team continues to focus on exits from homeless services. During the period 2nd August to 5th September 2025 the following exited from homelessness:

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

## Affordable Housing Schemes for County Clare

CCC continues to run Expression of Interest (EOI) Campaigns seeking proposals on options to deliver affordable homes in County Clare. CCC are also engaged with developers with potential for Part V affordable delivery.

To date, CCC have received approvals for access to the Affordable Housing Fund for the following developments:

- **Tulla Rd Ennis** - 10 units (with Developer).
- **Lahinch Rd Ennis** - 6 units (units allocated and at acquisition stage).
- **Shannon** - 10 units (All units allocated and at acquisition stage).

CCC are currently engaged with other developers, that have expressed interest in affordable housing, for potential inclusion on the scheme. CCC are currently awaiting receipt of stage 2 applications from 3 no potential developments in Tulla, Shannon and Ennis.

There is an online information portal at <https://affordablehomes.ie/> providing general information to the public with regards to affordable housing.

## Serviced Sites for New Homes – Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund.

The Governments current “Housing For All” plan provides for Local Authorities to make serviced sites available for sale to eligible purchasers through the Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund. The sites in towns and villages across the country will be made available at discounted rates for qualified individual purchasers who wish to build their own home.

It is CCC intent to provide for Croí Cónaithe sites in Lisdoonvarna and Feakle with progress to date being as follows:

- **Lisdoonvarna** - Design team appointed. Surveys complete, design complete & developing planning application.
- **Feakle** - Need assessment complete. Surveys complete & procuring design team.

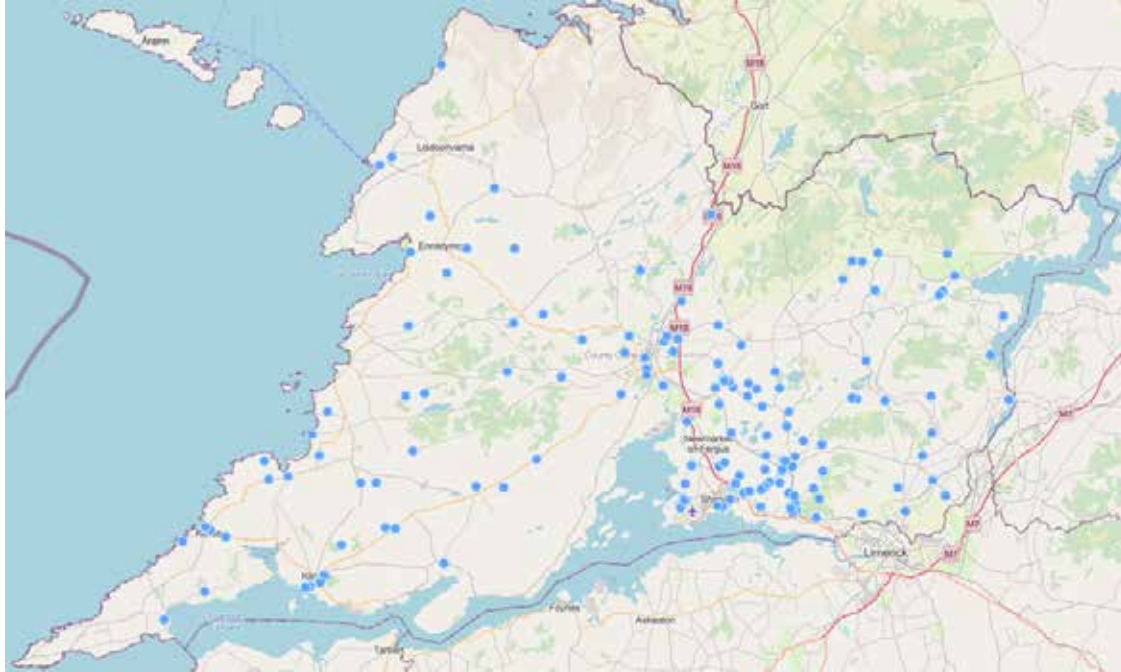
## Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme

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

Ministerial Guidelines published.

On the 7th of November 2024, The Minister approved an increase in the grant cap from €420,000 to €462,000.

## DCB Application Map



Homeowners can submit applications to the Defective Concrete Block (DCB) Scheme online via the Clare County Council (CCC) website. The site provides comprehensive guidance and resources to assist applicants throughout the process. A step-by-step instructional video titled "How to Make an Application" is also available to further support homeowners.

For additional assistance, CCC's DCB Team is available to respond to queries. Homeowners can contact the team via email at [dcb@clarecoco.ie](mailto:dcb@clarecoco.ie) or by phone at 065-6846385, 065-6846468, or 065-6846309.

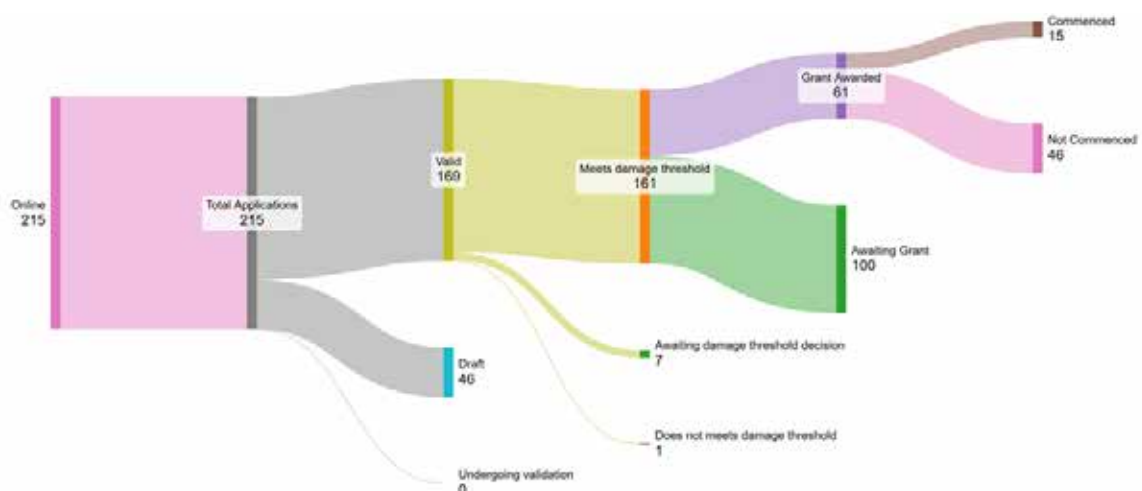
CCC continue to administer and validate applications received through the online portal. CCC maintains active engagement with both the Housing Agency and the Department of Housing,

Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH), fulfilling all associated responsibilities.

To date, CCC have issued 61 Remedial Option Grants, with a total value of €19.5 million approx. An additional 100 applications are currently pending further input from the Housing Agency, with grant determinations to follow. There are a further 46 applications at draft stage on the online portal.

The National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) is conducting a review of the current I.S.465 standard concerning deleterious materials, on behalf of the DHLGH. The public consultation period has concluded, and the NSAI are now reviewing the submissions received.

## DCB Application Flow Chart



CCC carried out information evenings in Q2 in Ennis & Shannon. The focus of these evenings was orientated towards applicants who have received their grant option. These events were attended to capacity with positive feedback from attendees. CCC intend to hold further information evenings and walk in clinics in various locations in Q4 of 2025, to target people with limited digital resources and/or capabilities, to assist them further in making an application and other elements of the DCB application process. Clare County Council continue to engage with the DHLGH to ensure social houses affected by DCB are included in a similar scheme.

### **Update on capital programme:**

Clare County Council's direct build projects that are currently under construction include the Back Road development in Kilrush, the Doonbeg development, the Gort Road, Ennis development, the Shallee Drive/Cloughleigh Road development in Ennis and the Moore Street, Kilrush development. These projects are all progressing well. Other housing capital schemes are at varying stages of design.



*Progress on Back Road, Kilrush housing development*



*Progress on Gort Road, Ennis housing development*



*Progress on Doonbeg housing development*



*Progress on Shallee/Cloughleigh housing development*

### **Approved Housing Bodies**

We are working closely with the Approved Housing Bodies operating in the County to ensure that maximum delivery of homes is achieved for approved applicants on our social housing waiting list and our delivery targets for the year are met. During the month of September, Departmental approval was received for 5 units at Radharc Doire, Shannon. This project is being delivered through Part V of the Planning Acts and will be completed shortly. Other schemes completed, under construction or at design stage are outlined in the table hereunder.

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

| SHIP Capital                                                         | No. approved | Current stage                                                            | Start Date             | Completion Date             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Clarehill Clarecastle                                                | 13           | Completed – T. Key<br>Construction Stage - T. Key                        | Q3 2023                | Q1 2025 (10)<br>Q1 2026 (3) |
| Garrán Cathaigh, Leadmore Kilrush                                    | 14           | Completed – T. Key                                                       | Q2 2024                | Q2 2025                     |
| Main Street Clarecastle                                              | 7            | Completed – T. Key                                                       | Q2 2024                | Q1 2025                     |
| Béal an Inbhir, Kilrush                                              | 28           | Construction Stage - T. Key . 8 Completed and allocated                  | Q2 2024                | Q3 2025 (8)<br>Q4 2025 (10) |
| Main Street Clarecastle                                              | 1            | Construction Stage                                                       | Q1 2024                | Q4 2025                     |
| Circular Road Ennistymon                                             | 4            | Construction Stage – T. Key                                              | Q2 2024                | Q4 2025                     |
| 38 St Patrick's Terrace, Kilrush                                     | 1            | Under Review                                                             | Q3 2025                | 2026                        |
| Gort Rd. Ennis                                                       | 20           | Construction Stage                                                       | Q3 2024                | Q4 2025                     |
| Doonbeg Lands                                                        | 8            | Construction Stage                                                       | Q4 2024                | Q1 2026                     |
| Shallee Drive / Cloughleigh Rd                                       | 5            | Construction Stage                                                       | Q1 2025                | Q1 2026                     |
| Back Road, Kilrush                                                   | 12           | Construction Stage                                                       | Q1 2025                | Q2 2026                     |
| Moore Street, Kilrush                                                | 16           | Construction Stage                                                       | Q3 2025                | Q4 2026                     |
| Drumcliff Rd, Ennis                                                  | 26           | Stage 2 approved by DHLGH                                                | -                      | -                           |
| R2 Lands Lisdoonvarna                                                | 25           | Stage 1 approved by DHLGH                                                | -                      | -                           |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                                                      | <b>151</b>   |                                                                          |                        |                             |
| Approved Housing Body Projects                                       | No. approved | Current stage                                                            | Start Date             | Completion Date             |
| Acha Bhile, Lahinch Rd., Ennis (Cluid Hsg. Assoc.) CALF Turnkey      | 10 (Phase 3) | Completed                                                                | Q1 2024                | Q1 2025                     |
| Cappahard, Ennis (Co-Operative Housing Ireland) CALF Turnkey         | 13 (Phase 2) | Completed                                                                | Q1 2024                | Q2 2025                     |
| Millbank, Roslevan, Ennis (Co-Operative Hsg. Ireland) CALF Turnkey   | 10 (Phase 2) | Completed                                                                | Q2 2024                | Q2 2025                     |
| Loughville, Ennis (Tuath Housing) CALF Turnkey                       | 34           | Completed:<br>Phase 2 - 18 units<br><br>Completed:<br>Phase 3 - 16 units | Q2 2024<br><br>Q3 2024 | Q2 2025<br><br>Q3 2025      |
| Market Street, Ennis (Co-Operative Hsg. Ireland) CALF Turnkey        | 14           | Under construction                                                       | Q3 2023                | Q4 2025                     |
| Ballyminogue, Scarriff (Inis Housing) CALF Turnkey                   | 5            | Under construction                                                       | Q2 2024                | Q4 2025                     |
| Acha Bhile, Ennis (Banner Hsg. Assoc.) CAS Turnkey                   | 4            | At construction stage                                                    | Q2 2025                | Q1 2026                     |
| 63 Shannon Heights, Kilrush (Sophia Hsg. Assoc.) CAS Renewal Const.) | 4            | At procurement stage for appointment of consultants                      | Q4 2025                | Q4 2026                     |
| 71 Shannon Heights, Kilrush (Sophia Hsg. Assoc.) CAS Renewal Const.) | 3            | At procurement stage for appointment of consultants                      | Q4 2025                | Q4 2026                     |
| 5/6 Ashfield Close, Ennis (Sophia Hsg. Assoc.) CAS Renewal Const.)   | 6            | At procurement stage for appointment of consultants                      | Q4 2025                | Q4 2026                     |
| Bruachlan, Westbury (Cooperative Hsg. Ireland) CALF Construction     | 22           | Contractor appointed                                                     | Q4 2025                | Q4 2026                     |
| Radharc Doire, Shannon (Cluid Hsg. Assoc)                            | 5            | At construction stage                                                    | Q4 2024                | Q4 2025                     |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                                                      | <b>130</b>   |                                                                          |                        |                             |
| <b>Total</b>                                                         | <b>310</b>   |                                                                          |                        |                             |

### Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

The Clare Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029 sets out overall targets for Clare County Council:

- 51% reduction in Clare County Council's own emissions
- 50% energy efficiency increase by 2030

A key requirement of the Plan was the identification of a Decarbonisation Zone (DZ) and the Kilkee/Loop Head Peninsula has been designated as the Decarbonisation Zone (DZ) for Clare County Council.

A key objective of the Plan is the retrofitting of the Social Housing Stock across the DZ, which currently number 136 units. The Housing Section are liaising with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and will prepare a Business Case to seek funding under a phased basis over the lifetime of the Plan for the retrofitting of these houses.



Figure 4: Image of Kilkee Loop head Decarbonisation Zone (DZ) Boundary

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## LOCAL AUTHORITY INTEGRATION TEAM

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Recent CSO figures show there were 746 Temporary Protections granted nationally in the past month with an average of 24 granted per day. There are currently 4,388 Ukrainian Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP's) living in County Clare, representing a decrease of 664 people in the County compared to figures released previously. There are 993 people accommodated in 19 multi-occupancy facilities located throughout the County - this reflects a decrease of 80 people compared to previous figures. The remaining people are accommodated in residential settings, in formal hosted arrangements, through the Irish Red Cross and Clare County Council's Offer-a-Home scheme. To date our Matching & Relationship Manager has facilitated the accommodation of 465 people that were originally living in hotel and multi-occupancy facilities.

The Government has announced changes to access and absence arrangements for State-contracted commercial accommodation effective from 8th September 2025;

The changes relate to accessing accommodation for people who arrived in Ireland before March 2024, and who are not already in State-contracted accommodation. This means that people who may have been State-contracted accommodation but have since left either through the ARP programme or private rented cannot avail of a second offer of State-contracted commercial accommodation. This also applies to people who arrived in Ireland before March 2024 and who may not have availed of State-contracted commercial accommodation to date.

This does not impact people who are currently in State-contracted commercial accommodation, if they remain in it. It

does not affect people who arrived after March 2024, for whom accommodation is provided for a period of 90 days.

People can continue to access Government supported accommodation under the Accommodation Recognition Payment scheme (ARP).

People in vulnerable circumstances may attend the Citywest Transit Hub seeking emergency accommodation and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Changes relating to absences from accommodation for people living in State-contracted commercial accommodation can now be absent from their accommodation for a total 3 absences, totalling no more than 21 days per calendar year. Absences must be arranged in advance and retrospective absence claims cannot be processed.

### Local Authority Integration Team



The Local Authority Integration Teams (LAITs) have been set up in all local authorities. Their purpose is to help coordinate the different kinds of support available for people who are applying for international protection, refugees, and others in similar situations.

The goal of LAITs is to help IP applicants and refugees become independent, settle into their new communities, and participate in Irish life. They do this by connecting people to important

services that can help them integrate into the community.

### Who do LAITs support?

LAITs provide support for:

- Applicants for International Protection (IP)
- People who have been granted refugee status or other forms of protection, such as subsidiary protection or permission to remain
- Refugees who have been resettled in Ireland through a government programme
- Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTPs)

### How is the support provided?

LAITs operate under the principle of 'Integration from Day One'. This means that LAITs provide integration support to people who need it as soon as they arrive in Ireland.

### What services do LAITs provide?

The work of LAITs isn't meant to replace existing services. Instead, LAITs help connect people with the existing services that are most suitable for their needs. This includes things like:

- Being a direct contact for new arrivals, helping them with any problems they might have when dealing with public services
- Connecting new arrivals with services like legal help, childcare and healthcare
- Connecting new arrivals with services that improve their ability to live independently, like job training, English classes, education, and apprenticeships
- Guiding new arrivals through the process of applying for financial support, medical help, child benefits, and other services they might need
- Holding meetings in local areas and using community development principles to help those who attend
- Supporting people if they face racism or other unfair treatment, helping them report it to the right authorities
- Helping vulnerable new arrivals get in touch with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other services if they need extra help

### How do I contact my Local Authority Integration Team?

You can contact LAIT's by email on [integration@clarecoco.ie](mailto:integration@clarecoco.ie)

### Faces of our Community

Faces of our Community Launch Celebrates the Diversity of Volunteers

On 4th September in the Suil Gallery in Ennis, the Faces of our Community project was officially launched. The project profiles the many different stories of volunteers, highlighting both their individuality and their shared journeys through a photo exhibition.

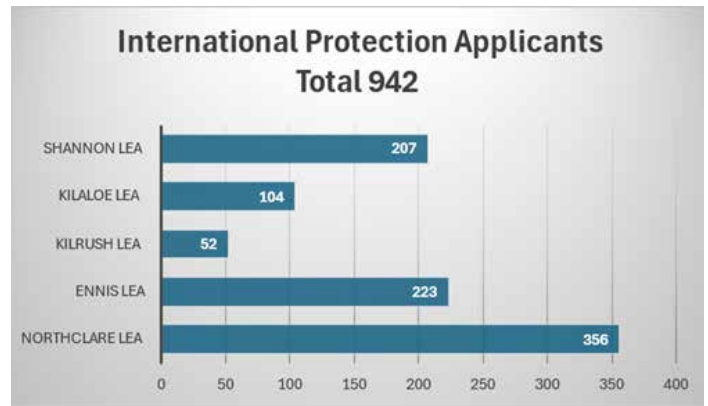
Opening the event, Mayor of Clare, Mary Howard, spoke of her deep appreciation for the role of volunteers and the value they bring to every corner of society. Sharon Meaney, Manager of Clare Volunteer Centre, reflected on the transformative power of volunteering, saying: *"We've seen how volunteering connects people - finding belonging in a new place. We've seen how*

*volunteering can support inclusion, leadership and activism, offering alternative voices of hope, justice and equality."*

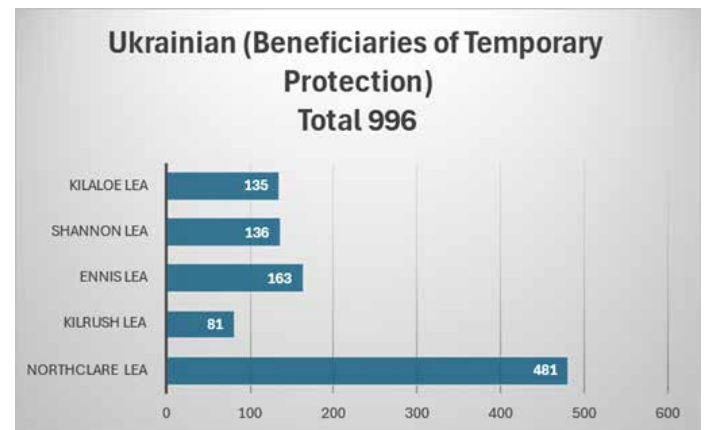
Brendan Boyce, Integration Co-Ordinator with Clare County Council, welcomed the partnership with Clare Volunteer Centre, noting: *"Clare County Council were delighted to be partnering to recognise the contribution of volunteerism to building resilience within our communities."*

The exhibition is currently on display in the De Valera Library until 3rd October, after which it will travel across the county, continuing to celebrate the Faces of our Community.





There has been some consolidation of accommodation properties over the summer months with the closure of several of the Ukrainian accommodation centres. There are now 996 Ukrainian Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection accommodated in 22 Multi Occupancy accommodation Centres throughout the County.



### AkiDwa Migrant Womens Network

Clare County Council's Integration Team was delighted to collaborate with AkiDwA – the Migrant Women's Network in delivering a women's health support and information session in North and East Clare.

A big thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to making the session such a supportive and engaging space. The Lait team is organising more information sessions with AkiDwa that will be held at Accommodation Centres throughout the county.



There are currently 942 International Protection Applicants accommodated in 12 Centres across County Clare.

## NORTH CLARE LEA



Surface water drainage clearing and survey works have been undertaken in Liscannor Village to support the preparation of a specific grant application.



Street cleaning operations are ongoing in Lahinch, with enhanced scheduling during peak visitor periods to maintain public amenities and support tourism.



Road-making works were completed in Doolin, focusing on surface improvements and drainage upgrades to enhance safety and accessibility.



A new electric vehicle has been added to the North Clare fleet, supporting our commitment to sustainable transport and reducing carbon emissions. This investment aligns with national climate action goals.



Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) Roads – North Clare: Progress continues on the delivery of LIS projects across the North Clare area, enhancing access to rural dwellings areas. Works are prioritised based on community need and available funding, with ongoing coordination between landowners and Council staff to ensure efficient implementation.



New litter and dog fouling bins have been installed in key public areas to improve waste disposal and promote responsible pet ownership.

## SPORTS &amp; RECREATION



## Active Ennis Leisure Complex

## Swim Lessons

Swim lessons returned in August for Schools and Public. Lessons are held Monday to Friday for schools and run every day for the public. These swim lessons help children of all levels improve and maintain their water confidence and swimming ability, while also offering a social and community outlet to children and parents.

Swim lessons remain extremely popular with a huge demand all year around. Our strong reputation among the public is testament to our instructors who endeavour to make the lessons enjoyable and educational for the children participating. Many children progress through each level of swimming lessons and qualify to join swim club run by Clare water safety.



## Studio Hire

With Summer coming to a close many classes that are run by instructors and practitioners in our studio are returning. We offer a wide variation of classes in our studio ranging from Yoga, Pilates, Tai chi and HIIT. Many of the practitioners hiring our studio are popular among the public and often fill out our studio. These practitioners help drive our community spirit and offer brilliant options to individuals seeking physical and social benefits from our facilities.



**YOGA**  
WITH ANTO

**ANTOINETTE BUTLER MULCAIRE**  
**086 3100 827**

Option of Zoom:  
All Studio Classes

**Ennis Leisure Centre**

**MONDAY**  
7:00pm - 8:15pm Mixed Level  
8:30pm - 9:30pm Men's Yoga

**Ennis Yoga Studio**

**TUESDAY**  
9:30am - 10:30am Morning  
7:00pm - 8:15pm Gentle/Restorative  
8:20pm - 9:45pm Continuation

**THURSDAY**  
9:30am - 10:30am Morning  
6:50pm - 8:00pm Pregnancy  
8:00pm - 9:15pm Continuation

**FRIDAY**  
9:30am - 10:30am Morning  
10:45am - 11:45am Morning

**CLASSES COMMENCE**  
**Monday 2nd September**  
**6 weeks €80** (no classes 30 Sept - 4 Oct)

yoga for grounding connection and harmony in today's world

**PILATES**

**MORNING FLOW**

Create balance in every movement

**Every Saturday**  
**11.00 am - 12.00 pm**  
**Active Ennis Leisure Complex**

- > BUILD STRENGTH
- > TONE MUSCLES
- > SHED UNWANTED FAT
- > ENHANCE BONE HEALTH
- > LEARN CORRECT WEIGHT LIFTING TECHNIQUE

**BARBELL BLAST**  
CHOREOGRAPHED TO MUSIC

Join the Barbell Blast class with a personal training touch

Two experienced trainers, Marta and Przemek, will cheer you on and help you reach your fitness goals

**SATURDAYS 10:15 - 11:15AM**  
**ACTIVE ENNIS LEISURE COMPLEX**

Limited spaces, don't miss out! Secure your spot, Pre-booking essential

### Autumn Membership Special

In August we began advertising a special membership offer that will commence for the month of September. It offers the public a 6-month membership with use of our gym and pool facilities for only €260. With this membership we hope to encourage users to continue to keep fit as we go through Autumn and into the Winter months. We also aim to increase membership numbers and build our community.



### Tim Smyth Park track

In August essential works began on resurfacing the track in Tim Smyth Park. This track is an important amenity for the town of Ennis and is a Popular location for walkers and runners of all ages. The track will reopen to the public in early November.



### Water Refill Stations

Three water refill stations were recently installed at Active Ennis Leisure Complex, Lees Road, and Tim Smyth Park as part of a Healthy Clare Ireland initiative. These stations allow users to fill reusable bottles with fresh drinking water, helping to reduce single-use plastic waste and encourage healthier hydration practices. All stations are positioned for easy access by the public, catering to a wide range of users including families, athletes, and leisure seekers. Each station encourages the use of reusable bottles and provides free clean water, reducing reliance on disposable plastic bottles in busy community hubs.

Eye-catching designs and clear labelling help the stations stand out in their respective locations. The convenient placement and modern designs are likely to encourage high usage rates and support local health initiatives. Anecdotal feedback from users in recreational and sports settings suggests strong community support for these amenities, particularly during large events and

peak park usage times. This installation is expected to deliver ongoing value for Ennis residents promoting good health practices through hydration. Healthy Clare will officially launch these refill stations to the public during Climate Action Week which takes place from 13th to the 19th October.



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

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



### General Updates

#### • Couch to 5K Virtual - The Clare Way

This programme is still ongoing and continues to encourage running participation. Participants are engaging with the recorded sessions uploaded on SoundCloud, while also tracking their progress through Strava. Sharing their sessions online has helped foster motivation and community support.

#### • Her Outdoors Week 2025

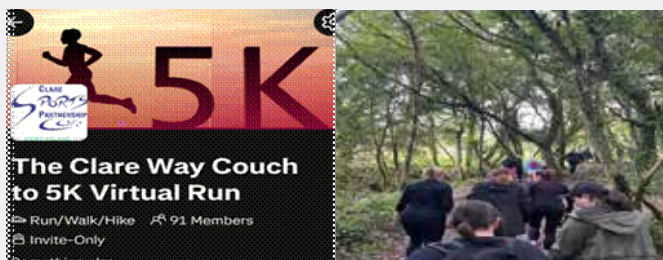
took place from August 10th to 17th, with over 133 women and teenage girls participating in 15 events across various locations in the county. To deliver this programme, Clare Sports Partnership partnered with a range of clubs and local providers. The activities offered something for everyone from water-based events such as sailing and kayaking, to lighter, social activities like yoga and a dip or guided hikes, and even opportunities to try something new, including clay pigeon shooting and cycling. While the activities varied, the central focus remained the same: encouraging women and girls to get active in the outdoors in a fun, supportive, and welcoming environment.



## • HER Outdoors Week – Beginner Walk

As part of HER Outdoors Week, I led a beginner 5K walk at the 12 O'Clock Hills with 12 female participants. This initiative was well received, and monthly walks will now be organised across different locations in Clare as part of a new Monthly Walk Series.

• During the month of August, we also ran an action-packed outdoor adventure camp in partnership with Derg Isle Adventure Centre, Scariff, for teen girls aged between 13 and 17 years. Twelve girls took part in the week-long camp for 3 hours each day. Some of the activities included kayaking, SUPing, rock climbing, teambuilding, archery and physical challenges. The feedback from the programme was very positive, and many of the girls were eager to engage in some of the activities again.



## Community Sports Hubs

### • Roller Skating

The roller-skating programme concluded on August 6th. Participants enjoyed the sessions and have collectively decided

to continue skating independently as part of a group, showing positive long-term engagement & sustainability.

### • Basketball Scrimmage

A six-week social basketball scrimmage concluded on August 19th. This programme provided a fun and social opportunity for participants to play and stay active.

### • Outdoor Bootcamp

As part of HER Outdoors Week, a taster bootcamp was delivered to assess interest levels. Based on strong feedback, a four-week bootcamp is scheduled for September at Shannon AC.



# TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

## Twinning



*Nort-sur-Erdre and Basse-Goulaine*

A group representing Sixmilebridge travelled to their twin town of Nort-sur-Erdre at the end of August. They were accompanied by Councillors John Crowe and Tony O'Brien representing the Clare County Council Twinning Committee. The invitation to both Sixmilebridge and Clare County Council was from Mayor of Nort-sur-Erdre, Yves Dauvé to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the twinning arrangement with Sixmilebridge, and which also included a group from Piedrabuena in Spain who were also in attendance. A busy few days were had with a number of meetings held with local community groups and the local authorities. A meeting with the local educational board was held and a priority going forward will be the student exchange program for both communities.

Mayor Yves Dauvé in all his speeches during the visit referenced the strong links and the relationships which had been established between the communities of Nort-sur-Erdre and Sixmilebridge over the past 20 years. Mayor Dauvé also acknowledged the support and hospitality offered by Clare County Council tourism and twinning sector, and thanked the council for their continued support.

In addition to this exchange, Councillor Tony O'Brien also met with twinning representatives from the nearby Basse-Goulaine, who are twinned with Killaloe / Ballina as a measure of maintaining this other strong twinning relationship.



*China's National Day Reception*

Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Councillor Paul Murphy was in attendance at the Chinese Embassy upon invitation from Ambassador Zhao Xiyuan and Madame LI Yi to celebrate China's National Day and 80 years marking the foundation of the People's Republic of China. This engagement proved fruitful in the exchange of new ideas for the established twinning relationship between the Burren Geopark and Yunnan Province.

## Inis Cealtra Visitor Experience Official Opening

The Inis Cealtra Visitor Experience was officially opened on Friday, September 19, 2025 by Minister of State for Fisheries and the Marine, Timmy Dooley TD.

Housed in the restored Rectory in Mountshannon, which was acquired by Clare County Council in 2021, the building serves as a centre for visitors to interpret Inis Cealtra (Holy Island), one of Ireland's most significant ecclesiastical heritage sites, and the history of the neighbouring communities.

The €5.3 million refurbishment project, funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, with matched funding from Clare County Council, followed extensive consultation with elected members, state agencies and the local community.

The centre offers interactive exhibits on the island's history, community stories, immersive footage of Inis Cealtra, and a scale 3D model, providing an insight into the history of the island. The attraction also features a first-floor café and accommodates a ground floor external seated terrace within the landscaped gardens of the Rectory.

The official opening also marked the completion of public realm works in Mountshannon, a new shared surface on Main Street aimed at improving connectivity and creating a vibrant public space for the community and visitors.



*Inis Cealtra Elected Members*

## Family Fun events for Killaloe-Ballina Pedestrianisation Trial



*Family Fun - Killaloe Bridge 7th September*

Clare County Council and Tipperary County Council continued the series of family-friendly events into September, as part of the trial pedestrianisation of the historic bridge linking Killaloe and Ballina. The events ran from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. each Sunday, including 7th September.

Activities included children's entertainment on the bridge itself, water-based showcases and participative events, as well as cultural activities. A number of events also aligned with National Heritage Week, offering families a chance to engage with local history and culture.

## Halloween



*Halloween Events in County Clare*

The Tourism Department is creating a special Halloween Event Listing and Feature for the upcoming spooky season.

Local tourism providers have been invited to showcase their Halloween events, by submitting their content on events to show that Clare is the place to be this Halloween.

Typical events to feature include:

- Halloween Festivals and Family Fun Days.
- Haunted Houses and Spooky Castle Experiences.
- Storytelling, Ghost Tours, and Night Walks.
- Themed Food & Drink Events or Autumn Markets.

It will appear prominently on VisitClare.ie, be promoted across the social media channels, and be a highlighted feature to local press.

## KILRUSH LOCAL ELECTORAL AREA, WEST CLARE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### Schedule of Municipal District Works 2025

West Clare MD is approaching completion of the 2025 Road Works Programme. Surface overlay contracts remain outstanding, but remain on course to deliver a much-increased RWP in 2025 (*an increased RWP budget of c. €2.3 million in 2025, an increase of c. 40% over 2024 RWP*).

### Repair of defect on N68 @ Tullagower

West Clare MD ran a Tender & appointed a contractor (Breedon's / Lagan) to repair a defect on the N68 Kilrush to Ennis Road at Tullagower. Approx 200 linear metres of the N68 has been upgraded.



### Kilrush Bring Bank facility

West Clare MD, in conjunction with our colleagues in the Environment Section and Kilrush Tidy Towns recently upgraded the Bring Bank facility located in Parc de Plouzané, Kilrush. The wall was painted, new signage installed and some additional fencing erected.



### Electric pick-up trucks

West Clare MD, in conjunction with our colleagues in the Roads & Transportation Section, recently replaced our two aged, diesel, half-moon litterbin & street sweepings collection pick-up trucks with brand new, zero-emission electric pick-up trucks. These are much kinder to the environment.



### Kilrush Dog-fouling Initiative

West Clare MD, in conjunction with our colleagues in the Environment Section facilitated community engagement days, in association with the Community Warden & Dog Warden for West Clare. Both Wardens spoke to members of the public about dog control, beach bye-laws and litter & waste initiatives. Free dog-poo bags were distributed to members of the public on the day. The Dog Warden also took the opportunity to check dog licences in the Kilrush area.

Dog-fouling awareness signage (including footpath stencilling) was erected in Cappa, Kilkee & Alyveroo.

A speaker – playing a looped message about dog-fouling – was erected near the Turret Lodge, Kilrush.

The wardens left a box of dog-poo bags in Kilkee Tourist Office for distribution, free-of-charge, to members of the public.



### Miscellaneous Other Works

Public Realm works in Kilkee.

West Clare MD removed some benches located on a sloped grass mound near Nolan's Hill, Strand Line, Kilkee. A new wall and flat RC slab were constructed, and new benches and wheelchair friendly picnic tables were installed.



# NEWSLETTER

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## MINISTER DOOLEY OFFICIALLY OPENS INIS CEALTRA VISITOR EXPERIENCE

The Inis Cealtra Visitor Experience was officially opened on Friday, September 19, by Minister of State Timmy Dooley TD.

Located in the restored Rectory in Mountshannon, acquired by Clare County Council in 2021, the centre interprets Inis Cealtra (Holy Island), one of Ireland's most important ecclesiastical heritage sites, and the history of local communities.

The €5.3 million project, funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development, the Gaeltacht, and Clare County Council, was developed in consultation with elected members, state agencies, and the community.

Visitors can explore interactive exhibits, immersive island footage, community stories, and a 3D scale model. The centre also includes a café, terrace, and landscaped gardens.

Discover more at [www.iniscealtra.ie](http://www.iniscealtra.ie)

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## EPIC TRIP TO IRELAND WINNER 2025

In early September, the Cliffs of Moher Experience welcomed Sharon, winner of the Epic Trip competition with Aer Lingus. Her itinerary showcased Clare's culture, heritage, and scenery, with visits to the Cliffs of Moher, Loop Head Lighthouse, Vandeleur Walled Garden, Craggaunowen, and Bunratty Castle & Folk Park.

Along the way, Sharon enjoyed local stories, traditions, artisan food, and authentic stays—highlighting the variety and warmth of Clare's visitor offering. Thanks to all the local teams, guides, and businesses who made the trip memorable.





## THE GLASSHOUSE AT VANDELEUR WALLED GARDEN & VISITOR CENTRE

After an extensive renovation project, the newly renovated Glasshouse at Vandeleur Walled Garden, Kilrush has been transformed into a versatile event space. This new venue is perfect for hosting corporate dinners, team days, awards ceremonies, and private functions.

The Vandeleur Walled Garden & Visitor Centre combines a unique setting with adaptable layouts to suit both intimate gatherings and large-scale occasions and is ready to help create memorable corporate events in this beautiful and distinctive venue.



## MAX STARKS, PITTSBURGH STEELERS PAYS A VISIT TO THE CLIFFS OF MOHER!

The first-ever NFL Dublin game takes place on Sunday, September 28 with the Pittsburgh Steelers taking on the Minnesota Vikings at the iconic Croke Park stadium. Former Steelers player and two-time Super Bowl Champion, Max Starks, is travelling around Ireland in a Steelers-branded van, visiting key locations, meeting fans, and handing out the iconic Steelers Terrible Towel. The Cliffs of Moher Experience welcomed Max, where he enjoyed a full tour of the natural attraction in the sunshine! He was greeted by many Steelers fans, several of whom had made the trip to Ireland especially for the big game. He felt right at home!



## UNVEILING OF 'THE RIPPLE EFFECT' AT VANDELEUR WALLED GARDEN

"The Ripple Effect", a stunning new trellis of rain chains created by first year students from Clare Youth Service Kilrush, in collaboration with Youth Worker, Melissa Blunnie, and local artist, Cortney Westhoff-O'Farrell was officially unveiled on September 18th.

The unveiling was attended by Councillor Rita McNerney, local artist Cortney Westhoff-O'Farrell, the Melissa Blunnie with her Clare Youth Services Kilrush team and members of Kilrush Amenity Trust.

With sustainability at its heart, this collaborative artwork was designed to endure West Clare's wild weather while weaving together the history of Kilrush and the creativity of its young people. Each element has meaning, from keys for security, to the potato as a reminder of resilience during the famine.

This is a wonderful addition to the Walled Garden, which visitors will get to enjoy and appreciate during their visit.



## WEDDING AT LOOP HEAD LIGHTHOUSE

On 6 September 2025, Loop Head Lighthouse hosted the wedding of Adam and Kristine in a Humanist ceremony officiated by Margaret Gammell. Family and friends from Sweden, Ireland, and the USA attended. Despite strong winds preventing an outdoor ceremony, the Interpretive Centre provided an intimate setting, with music by harpist Úna and a special performance by Kristine herself. Congratulations to the couple on their memorable day.



### INAUGURAL TEAM DAY IN THE GLASSHOUSE AT VANDELEUR WALLED GARDEN & VISITOR CENTRE

On Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> September, members of Clare Tourism Development staff held their first team meeting in the newly renovated Glasshouse in Vandeleur Walled Garden & Visitor Centre. This marked the first occasion that the Glasshouse was booked for use on a corporate team day, and was used as an opportunity for fine-tuning and troubleshooting issues around holding corporate events in the new venue. Staff look forward to hosting more corporate days out in the future. Are you looking for a unique setting for your next meeting? Contact us!



### MEET THE MAKER AT THE CLIFFS OF MOHER EXPERIENCE

September was a big month for local Makers in the Craft & Gift Store at the Cliffs of Moher Experience. Visitors had the opportunity to meet and chat with a wonderful range of talented artisans including Roweena Sheen, Doreen Drennan, Tinnakeeley Leathers, Helen Lowe, SIAR Photography, Moher Soap Co., Airmid, Atlantic Low Tide, and Wilde Irish Chocolate. Each maker shared their unique works and goods with the public at the stand in the Visitor Centre. Even Max Starks got in on the fun during his visit to the Cliffs this past September!



### THE BURREN & CLIFFS EXPLORER SHUTTLE BUS ENDS FIRST SEASON

The Burren & Cliffs Explorer Shuttle Bus has completed its wonderful pilot season. This free, hop-on hop-off service made it easier than ever for visitors and locals alike to explore North and West Clare. But all good things must come to an end, and it's time to wave goodbye to the Shuttle Bus for this season. While the 2025 service came to its end on August 31<sup>st</sup>, we're already looking forward to next year. Thank you to everyone who supported the service. We look forward to welcoming you back in 2026 when the service will be reinstated.



### THE ATTENDANT'S COTTAGE

The Loop Head Lighthouse Attendant's Cottage continues to receive positive feedback and attention on social media. The Epic Trip Winner, Sharon Hicks, praised the cottage in particular when interviewed about her trip, calling it the highlight of her visit to County Clare. All About RosaLilla, the influencer who was booked into the cottage last summer, has rereleased footage from the Attendant's Cottage taken last year on her socials this autumn. She has listed the cottage as one of Ireland's Cosiest Escapes for Autumn in her ongoing social series to an audience of 47.7K on Instagram.



## VIKING HERITAGE SHOWCASED AT CRAGGAUNOWEN

On August 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, Craggaunowen was transformed into an immersive Viking village, offering visitors a comprehensive look into the life and culture of our Viking ancestors.

This two-day event featured a range of educational and interactive experiences ranging from battle re-enactments to Cultural and Craft demonstrations: The event also featured a series of historically accurate workshop tents where crafters demonstrated essential Viking skills, including trading, silversmithing, armour-making, fabric production, and food preparation using authentic period ingredients.

The event also provided a number of hands-on activities, including traditional Viking games like Knubb and Hnefatafl, a strategic board game similar to modern chess, designed to engage visitors of all ages.



## BUNRATTY CASTLE CELEBRATES TRADITIONAL HARVEST DAY

On 7 September, Bunratty Castle & Folk Park hosted its annual Harvest Day, offering an authentic portrayal of rural Irish life from over a century ago.

The event featured traditional agricultural demonstrations, including threshing, alongside displays of vintage tractors and stationary engines. Visitors were also afforded the opportunity to observe and engage with traditional crafts, including butter and bread making, basket weaving, and wool spinning using locally sourced wool.

The day concluded with performances by the Clare Céilí Band, Sean Nós and Irish language singing by MacDara Ó Conaola, and traditional dance presented by the Ball Hoban Academy of Dance.



## NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEK CELEBRATED ACROSS CLARE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT SITES

### Loop Head Lighthouse Open Day

On 24 August 2025, Loop Head Lighthouse opened its gates for National Heritage Week, offering history talks, local music, and tours of the Attendant's Cottage and lighthouse tower. Dr. Eamon Doyle spoke on the area's geology in Muddying the Waters, while John Williams and Robert Brown explored local history and Napoleonic signal towers. Visitors also enjoyed alpaca walks, trad music by Bernie Keane & Friends, and activities hosted by the OPW and Irish Whale and Dolphin Group.

### Craggaunowen National Heritage Week

Craggaunowen celebrated with storytelling, traditional craft demonstrations, and hands-on workshops in wool dyeing, spinning, blacksmithing, bookbinding, and leatherwork. The week concluded on 24 August with Food, Fire & Folklore, featuring Chef Mark Irwin cooking over open fire and a Fulacht Fiadh demonstration of ancient stone cooking techniques.

### Bunratty Castle & Folk Park

Bunratty focused on Ireland's indigenous heritage, highlighted by the Irish Native Rare Breeds Event on 17 August. Visitors met breed society representatives, watched traditional craft demonstrations, including coracle construction by Tom Delaney, and enjoyed food tastings, lectures, and discussions on heritage breed conservation and genetics.



## MONSTERS, MISFITS AND MAYHEM WILL INVADE BUNRATTY CASTLE AND FOLK PARK THIS HALLOWEEN

Bunratty's annual Halloween event takes place from **Saturday, October 25th to Bank Holiday Monday, October 27th**, as a frightening array of activities will take over the park.

Monsters, Misfits and Mayhem will invade the castle grounds with wicked wakes and talking heads to the witch's kitchen and a bed of nails. New activities for 2025 include the Child Catcher, a sinister figure with a nose for mischief and a knack for sniffing out fun, and Grandmother Witch Maudie, the village's sweet old enchantress who is not only a healer and storyteller but a keeper of curious cures.

There will also be some more gently horror for the little devils such as traditional Halloween games, spooky storytelling, haunted train rides and puppetry adventures. Bunratty promises a frightening array of activities to thrill and terrify the entire family!



## A SEASON OF FESTIVE EXPERIENCES AT BUNRATTY CASTLE AND FOLK PARK

From November 28<sup>th</sup> a variety of enchanting experiences will fill the castle and folk park with Santa Claus back in his grotto on the Village Street, the Christmas at the Castle Banquet and the unique opportunity to have Breakfast with Santa.

### Christmas Experience at Bunratty

Santa will be making his highly anticipated return to his enchanting grotto on Village Street. He will be ready to welcome children from across Ireland, hear their Christmas wishes and delightful stories, and give them a special thank-you gift for their visit. Visitors will also enjoy an assortment of amusement rides, the polar express train, tunnel of lights, puppet shows, Christmas tales and a whole host of festive Christmas characters.



### Breakfast with Santa

Fun, fanfare and a fantastic array of entertainment and excitement await as Santa hosts a delicious breakfast served by his team of impish elves. With entertainment and colour provided by renowned entertainers and leading artists from the world of theatre, performing as everyone's favourite Christmas characters for the occasion, guests will enjoy a sing-a-long with Santa, Mrs Claus, Jack Frost, Mary Poppins and many more festive characters as they get up to all sorts of antics in this unique and enchanting setting.



### Christmas at the Castle Show

The Bunratty Entertainers transform the banquet with a captivating blend of classic carols and contemporary Christmas favourites for a truly festive and enchanting atmosphere. With a warm mulled wine reception, elegant feast by candlelight and a variety of festive theatrical pieces, the Christmas at the Castle banquet is sure to immerse guests in the magic of Christmas.



### THE GARDEN GETS GRIM AT VANDELEUR WALLED GARDEN & VISITOR CENTRE

From the 25<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> of October, Vandeleur Walled Garden will be transformed into a cob-web-covered, ghastly graveyard! Get into the spooky spirit by walking through the Haunted Garden where the tombstones, featuring inscriptions that are *drop-dead* funny, will have you *dying* with laughter. All visitors can pick up a clue sheet to solve a Halloween mystery from reception. Older children (and adults too!) can enjoy the Screech Walk, a mysterious tunnel filled with *shrieking* surprises. Plenty of activities will be on offer throughout the week, including: storytelling, pumpkin carving, face painting, a photo booth for visitors in fancy dress, and more!



### FREE ENTRY FOR CLARE RESIDENTS

Get ready for Christmas at the Cliffs of Moher Experience! Clare residents and holiday homeowners are invited to celebrate the Christmas season with FREE admission to the Cliffs of Moher Experience from December 1<sup>st</sup> to January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026. This festive offer allows locals and homeowners to enjoy one of Ireland's most iconic attractions in a cheerful, holiday atmosphere, right on their doorstep. The Cliffs' Craft & Gift Store features products from many Irish suppliers, offering a wonderful way to support local businesses this Christmas. Shoppers can find unique, handcrafted gifts ranging from knitwear, candles, and jewellery to art, ceramics, and beauty products. Come celebrate!



### LOOP HEAD LIGHTHOUSE MOVES TO AUTUMN HOURS: WEEKENDS & BANK HOLIDAYS

As the summer season winds to a close, Loop Head Lighthouse will move to its reduced autumn hours from Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> September. Throughout the month of October, the lighthouse grounds will be open on weekends and Bank Holidays from 10am to 5pm. The site will close for the season at the end of October, but the Lighthouse Attendant's Cottage will remain available to book throughout the winter months.



### SANTA RETURNS TO VANDELEUR WALLED GARDEN & VISITOR CENTRE

Vandeleur Walled Garden & Visitor Centre in Kilrush will once again transform into a festive wonderland for the annual Santa Experience! Across three weeks in December, families are invited to wander through twinkling lights, festive displays, and a new Tunnel of Light. Children can explore Santa's Post Office in the Glasshouse, where they'll write their letters before posting them straight to the North Pole. The highlight is a one-to-one visit with Santa Claus in his enchanting grotto. With weekend booking slots available from 2pm – 8pm, the Santa Experience at Vandeleur Walled Garden promises festive fun and cherished memories for everyone!



## FAILTE IRELAND'S PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT TEAM EXPLORE INIS CEALTRA

Clare County Council were delighted to welcome a delegation from Fáilte Ireland including Paddy Mathews, Head of Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, Fiona Monaghan, Head of Outdoor Activities, Mary Stack, Head of Attractions, Orla Carroll, Head of Product Development and Paul Hayden PMP, Head of Programme - Just Transition, to the new Inis Cealtra Visitor Experience in Mountshannon this afternoon.

This visit reinforced our ongoing support from Fáilte Ireland and the Ireland's Hidden Heartlands team in this project and also served to highlight the support and development of tourism products and opportunities across the Lough Derg region, emphasising the immense potential for future growth and collaboration.

The delegation also enjoyed an in-depth tour of Inis Cealtra itself with local historian Ger Madden, providing valuable insights into the rich heritage of the area.

## SENIOR TOURISM IRELAND REPRESENTATIVES VISIT CRAGGAUNOWEN AND INIS CEALTRA

This month, Clare Tourism Development were pleased to host a delegation of Senior Representatives from Tourism Ireland's Great Britain, United States, French, and Nordic teams, as well as members of Fáilte Ireland's Hidden Heartlands team to experience Craggaunowen and the Inis Cealtra Visitor Experience as part of a Ireland Hidden Heartlands International Steering Group familiarisation trip.

The visit was part of a fact-finding mission to identify visitor experiences within the Hidden Heartlands that would appeal to overseas tourists, thereby encouraging them to diverge from traditional Irish tourism hotspots.

At Craggaunowen, guests participated in a range of activities, including Ogham writing, wool spinning, and blacksmithing. The visit to the Inis Cealtra Visitor Experience included a boat trip to the island, a guided tour, and an exploration of the new visitor Centre in Mountshannon. This new facility provides insight into the island's historical and regional significance.



## CLARE TD DONNA MCGETTIGAN VISITS THE CLIFFS OF MOHER

In September, the Cliffs of Moher Experience was pleased to welcome Clare TD Donna McGettigan for a site visit and guided tour.

During her visit, Donna enjoyed the full visitor experience - taking in the panoramic cliffside views, the interactive Photo Experience, and the immersive 4D journey that brings the landscape to life. She also explored the Craft & Gift Store, which showcases over 60 locally made products and sustainable Irish crafts.

A strong supporter of local engagement, Donna chose to purchase the Cliffs of Moher Local Pass, which offers unlimited access, free parking, and discounts in the cafés and gift shop - a great way for locals to enjoy the site throughout the year.



### Recruitment Competitions September

#### Eligibility Exercises & Desktop Shortlisting

- Technician Grade I
- Permanent Canteen attendants (Full time & Part Time)
- I.S. Cyber Security Analyst (Grade VI)
- Temporary Community Climate Action Officer

#### Interviews

- School Warden
- Traffic Litter Warden
- Beach Operative - North Clare
- Heavy Vehicle Mechanic Apprenticeship
- Retained Station Officer (Killaloe)
- Executive Architectural Conservation Officer

#### The following competitions were advertised:

- Permanent Lifeguard/Instructor (Ennis Leisure Complex)
- Branch Librarian
- Sporadic Cover School Warden - Ennis & Shannon
- Finance Management System Support Manager Grade VII
- Retained Part-Time Firefighter Panel - Kilkee & Killaloe

## TRAINING PROGRAMMES / WEBINARS / CONFERENCES/ INFORMATION SESSIONS SEPTEMBER

- AIE Training for Decision Makers
- Ás Gaeilge - Phone & Customer Service Skills
- Children First Training
- Interview Training
- Irish Language Workshop
- Junior Achievement Volunteer Workshop
- LGBTQIA+ Inclusion Training
- Raising Awareness - Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme.

### Essential Skillz on-line Courses:

- Health & Safety Induction
- Neurodiversity
- Slips, Trips & Falls

### Health & Safety:

- 2-Day First Aid Refresher
- CPC Driver Training Module 1
- Manual Handling
- Safe Pass

### Employee Wellbeing

- The September Wellbeing Focus updates on the Clare County Council Wellbeing Hub were focused on Mental Health.
- The Financial Wellbeing Programme featured a webinar about Money & Family. One to one financial clinics are also available to all staff.
- LGBTI+ Awareness training was held mid-September to coincide with Clare Pride weekend.

### Unions

The Human Resources Department engages with Unions on various matters.

## PROCUREMENT

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

| Tender Name                                                                                                                                                                           | RFT ID  | Response deadline   | Procedure                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Renovations and Extensions to Housing Units at No. 4 and No. 5 Drumbiggle Road, Ennis, Co. Clare                                                                                      | 6595913 | 20/10/2025 16:00    | Open                            |
| Affordable Housing - Clare County Council Is Seeking Expressions Of Interest For the Provision Of Turnkey Housing Developments For Delivery Of Affordable Housing Across County Clare | 6628060 | 31/12/2025 16:00:00 | Preliminary Market Consultation |
| Consultancy Services For The Inspection, Design, Procurement, Construction And Handover Phases Of Bridge Rehabilitation Works In County Clare 2026 - 2029                             | 6635514 | 20/10/2025 14:00:00 | Open                            |

# PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Town Centre First

#### **THRIVE Ennis - Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme**

Clare County Council has been approved for the full funding sought under THRIVE to refurbish the Cloister and its outbuildings from the Southern Regional Assembly. The Cloister Project will transform a key vacant heritage building in the town centre into a vibrant multi-use Arts/Community Hub.



The Cloister

#### **Kilrush Town Centre First Plan**

The Town Centre First Department is working with the Kilrush Town Team and the West Clare Municipal District to prepare a Draft Town Centre First Plan. Hassett Ducatez Architects is currently finalising the document.



Kilrush Town Centre (photo: Chris McKiernan)

## FORWARD PLANNING

### CONSERVATION AND BUILT HERITAGE

#### **Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2026 and BHIS Historic Thatched Buildings Scheme**

Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, James Browne and Minister of State for Nature, Heritage and Biodiversity, Christopher O'Sullivan, announced on the 25th July 2025, the opening of applications for the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2026, including a dedicated funding stream for historic thatched buildings. BHIS supports owners and custodians of historic buildings to maintain and conserve the important structures which form an essential part of Ireland's cultural landscape.

Grants applicants under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme

may receive a maximum grant 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).
- Historic Shopfronts

Under the BHIS Historic Thatched Buildings Scheme, the aim is to protect the heritage value of historic thatched roof buildings across Ireland, including dwellings and other structures. The maximum grant available is up to €20,000.

Further details about Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2026 and BHIS Historic Thatched Buildings Scheme are available at <https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/planning/news/2026-built-heritageinvestment-scheme-and-bhis-historic-thatched-buildings-scheme.html>.

The closing date for receipt of applications for the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2026 and BHIS Historic Thatched Buildings Scheme was Friday 26th September 2025. A large number of applications were received.

### Section 57 Applications

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

| Section 57 Declarations | September 2025 | 2025 (Year to date) |
|-------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Total (Valid)           | 2              | 20                  |

## HERITAGE

### Reading the Local Landscape Course

Reading the Local Landscape Course has begun in Kilkee with 12 students participating. Each student is at present preparing their local heritage project for publication on the Clare Heritage website [clareheritage.org](http://clareheritage.org) and to be exhibited on the Showcase night, which will be held in Kilkee on the 16th of December.



Previous participants of Reading the Local Landscape course in the field exploring the local archaeology.

### Clare Placenames Committee

The Clare Placenames Committee met again in September and approved on the names of 3 housing estates in Corofin, Quin and Athlunkard. The committee has now met on 4 occasions in 2025 and decided on 12 placenames, mainly the naming of housing estates.

### Clare Heritage and Biodiversity Forum

Clare Heritage and Biodiversity Forum held a meeting where Dave Pollack, archaeologist pre-sented the findings of the detailed

survey of the partial mud house at Johnny Macks Cross in Tullaroe, Querrin.

### The Partial Mud house in Johnny Macks House in Tullaroe, Querrin.

The second phase of the partial mud house project at Johnny Macks Cross in Tullaroe has begun where Anú Heritage are commissioned to undertake a Conservation Management Plan for the ruin and to submit a Built Heritage Investment Scheme application for funding under Vernacular Heritage.



Partial mud house at Johnny Macks Cross in Tullaroe, Querrin prior to the road improvement works.

### TY Tasters in Traditional Skills

The Heritage Officer and Craggaunowen Castle and Crannog are offering an exciting opportunity of a free skills training programme to Transition Year students in secondary Schools throughout County Clare. The course is designed to give TY students practical, hands-on experience in areas such as:

- Blacksmithing- demonstration and workshop
- Leatherwork- demonstration and workshop
- Spinning, weaving and wool dyeing- demonstration and workshop
- Wattle fence production and clay sculptures -demonstration and workshop

The programme is funded by the Heritage Council and Clare County Council and free of charge to the participating schools. We believe this programme offers students a valuable opportunity to develop practical skills in a unique cultural setting while enhancing their educational experience and future employability.

### The 2025 National Heritage Week Awards

The 2025 National Heritage Week Awards recognise the work of Heritage Week event organisers in creating and running events that highlight our built, natural and cultural heritage that took place all over Ireland for National Heritage Week. In 2025, over 100 events took place in Clare, where event organisers from across Clare brought their passion and expertise to create memorable and inspiring heritage experiences. These events highlight a shared commitment to preserving and celebrating Clare's heritage.

The Heritage Council announced the shortlisted events across several award categories, each representing an outstanding contribution to Ireland's heritage.

Kilkee Currach Presentation and Regatta undertaken by the West

Clare Currach Club were shortlisted for the national award under Intangible Cultural Heritage Award- The Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh Award. The Intangible Cultural Heritage Award is awarded to an event or project that encouraged a greater appreciation of an element of our intangible cultural heritage, crafts, skills, customs and practices.



### County Clare research on natural history showcased in The Dead Zoo Lab

A fascinating body of research by iCAN groups in Clarecastle and Ballyea Heritage and Wildlife Group and Kilkeedy Heritage Group, was unveiled the National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks. The aim of the Our Irish Natural History project is to highlight the role of communities as valuable stewards of Ireland's natural heritage and to celebrate the important cultural meanings that native species embody for many Irish communities. The research is now on display in The Dead Zoo Lab, an exciting new space for natural history at Collins Barracks while the famous 'Dead Zoo' on Merrion Street is closed for works.

The research on Irish plants, animals and geological features was carried out by members of the Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN), an initiative of the National Museum delivered in partnership with The Heritage Council and Heritage Officers in participating local authorities.

Edenvale Lesser Horseshoe Bats featuring 5 caves in the locality and the 12,500-year-old Brown Bear patella that was found in the Edenvale Caves are beautifully displayed in glass cabinets. In between the two cabinets is a touchscreen facility displaying the research and linking back to the Clare iCAN website [clareheritage.org](http://clareheritage.org)

Kilkeedy Heritage Group in County Clare examined the recent re-discovery of a native population of Burren pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), Ireland's only native conifer species and the rare glimpse this offers into Ireland's ancient woodland past.

Members of the Clare iCAN groups were at the National Museum to unveil the new display of specimens, stories, visual art, videos and more. Our Irish Natural History is on display now at The Dead Zoo Lab at Collins Barracks, See [museum.ie](http://museum.ie) for further details.



Photographed at the launch of 'Our Irish Natural History' was Eric Shaw from Clarecastle who gave a presentation at the event on the Edenvale caves project.

## BIODIVERSITY

### Community Foundation Ireland Biodiversity Fund 2024

The Community Foundation Ireland Biodiversity Fund is now open for applications and closes at 4pm on Friday 17th October 2025. Clare County Council's Biodiversity Officer has been linking in with communities to apply for funding to prepare a Community Biodiversity Action Plan or implement biodiversity actions for existing Community Biodiversity Action Plans in towns and villages across the county. Clare has one of the highest number of Community Biodiversity Action Plans which are available to view at <https://actionforbiodiversity.ie/counties/clare/>. There are three levels of funding which amount to €6,000, €8,000 and €11,000 respectively where communities can work with a professional ecologist to develop and implement actions. Further details on the funding model and criteria can be viewed at <https://www.communityfoundation.ie/grants/biodiversity-fund-2025/>



### East Clare Forest Schools Programme

In September and October 2025, Clare County Council's Biodiversity Officer supported and funded the forest school's educational initiative 'Wild Plants can Sing Forest School' which links local primary schools in East Clare to learn about native woodlands in their local area through biodiversity workshops. Primary school children from Flagmount, Dromindoora and Feakle national schools participated

in the 'Wild Plants Can Sing Forest School' initiative led by Heritage in Schools specialist Marina Levitina. The workshop introduces children to learn about ancient oak trees, native plants and where these seeds are sourced from their local area. This is the second year the initiative is funded by Clare County Council and promotes biodiversity education through creative learning.



East Clare Forest Schools Initiative promotes biodiversity education through creative learning.

### Media Coverage

Clare County Council's Biodiversity Officer Barry O'Loughlin participated in two radio pieces in recent months to promote the Council's work with local communities and biodiversity actions. The first was Ireland's top nature podcast series 'In Your Nature' hosted by Ricky Whelan and Niall Hatch. This podcast focused on biodiversity actions undertaken at Doonbeg Church Grounds which featured community members Jennie Drysdale and Ann McLaughlan of Doonbeg Tidy Towns. The second radio piece was Clare FM's 'Beyond Belief' hosted by Stephen Fletcher. This radio piece featured the Biodiversity Officer and community member Linda Hebenstreit of Christ Church (Church of Ireland) Spanish Point and the biodiversity actions undertaken there such as wild-flower meadows, installation of barn owl nest boxes, bat roost boxes, bird tables and undertaking training events around wild-flower identification.



Clare FM's 'Beyond Belief' podcast with Clare County Council's Biodiversity Officer Barry O'Loughlin and Spanish Point's Linda Hebenstreit



'In Your Nature' Podcast with Ricky Whelan, Doonbeg Tidy Towns and Clare County Council's Biodiversity Officer

### Barn owl Nest Box Installation

Clare County Council's Biodiversity Officer and Birdwatch Ireland's Alan McCarthy installed barn owl boxes throughout the month of September at Kilkee, Tulla, Clooney Quin and Spanish Point. Barn Owl is a red-listed bird species of conservation concern due to declines in the breeding population. In July, measurements of owl-ets were undertaken including weight, wing span and chicks were ringed. The project is funded by Clare County Council and the Local Biodiversity Action Fund (NPWS).



Barn Owl Nest Boxes were Installed during September and monitoring of owlets undertaken in July under license by National Parks and Wildlife Service

following:

- the national territory mapping that has been undertaken (under Article 15b); and on
- any key considerations that should be taken into account, in preparing a draft plan(s) for the designation of at least one Renewable Acceleration Area (under Article 15c).

The purpose of this Consultation is to take into account the views of the public, on the inclusion of areas already designated for renewable energy generation, in existing City / County Development Plans, for the purposes of the mapping exercise required under Article 15b of REDIII. It does not alter or amend any existing plans, nor does it affect their status under any enactment. The purpose of the Public Consultation is also to invite any key considerations from the public, in preparing a draft plan for the designation of at least one Renewable Acceleration Area (under Article 15c), noting that any RAA must be a “sub-set” of the areas identified in the “national territory mapping” exercise. For example, such key considerations could include any environmental issues or sensitivity criteria. that should be taken into account in the designation of an RAA.

The Planning Department have provided all available GIS information with regards to our Grid-Scale Onshore Wind in terms of our designations as outlined in the counties Wind Energy Strategy which forms a separate volume of the Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029. Local authorities are obliged by Department of Environment, Community and Local Government Circular PL20-13, to delay the reviewing of their Wind Energy Strategies until such time as the new national-level guidelines are available to Councils. This non-statutory public consultation exercise will form one element of the preparation of a draft plan for the designation of an RAA and the establishment of appropriate rules on effective environmental mitigation measures.

### Asian Hornet

The first-ever Asian hornet nest, an invasive species, was located and safely removed from Cork city in early September 2025, marking Ireland's first confirmed instance of a nest colony. A multi-agency group, including the National Parks and Wildlife Service and National Biodiversity Data Centre, is leading efforts to prevent its establishment, as it poses a severe threat to native pollinators including solitary bees, honeybees and bumblebees. Clare County Council through its social media channels has raised awareness of this issue and for the public to remain vigilant and report any suspected sightings with a photo via the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) reporting portal. There are no confirmed sightings of the species within Clare at the present time.

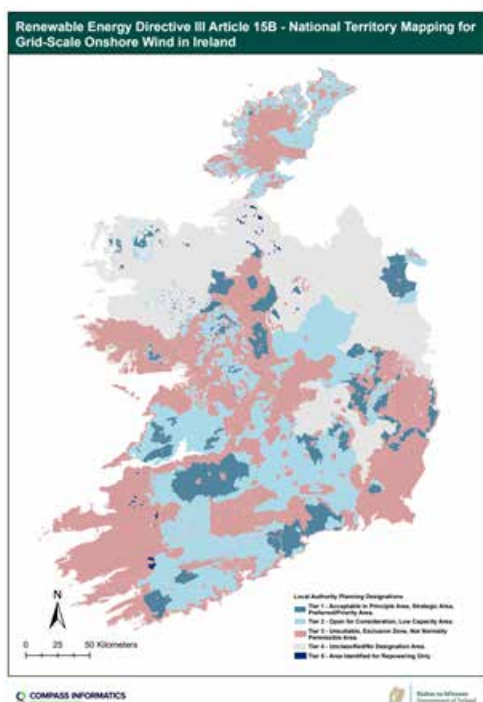
### Strategic Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) for the Shannon Estuary

Clare County Council Planning Department are preparing a submission in response to the Public Consultation on National Territory Mapping for Renewable Electricity - Article 15b of **EU Renewable Energy Directive (2023/2413)**.

The Public Consultation will seek input from the public on the

Clare County Council as lead authority on the SIFP Steering Group will be advocating for the Shannon Estuary with its deep-water ports, access to unparalleled hinterland and availability of Grid Connection to be identified as a Renewable Acceleration Area.

Any member of the public looking to make a submission can do so through the Department web-site through the following link: [Public Consultation on National Territory Mapping for Renewable Electricity](#)



National Territory Mapping for Grid-Scale Onshore Wind in Ireland

## DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The table below shows the number of planning applications processed during the month of September. Sixty six percent of planning applications received in these months were received by electronic means.

| PLANNING APPLICATIONS                                                                               | September | 2025 to date |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| No. of planning applications received                                                               | 90        | 902          |
| No. of Planning Decisions made                                                                      | 76        | 764          |
| No. of decisions notified by An Bord Pleanála                                                       | 3         | 40           |
| No. of pre-planning enquiries received                                                              | 20        | 176          |
| No. of Section 5 applications                                                                       | 8         | 82           |
| No. of Section 97 Exemption Cert applications (in respect of Part V of the Planning & Dev Act 2000) | 3         | 28           |
| Submissions received regarding Compliance                                                           | 30        | 205          |

## PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

| September 2025<br>(25th August to 21st September inclusive) | 2025 to date |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----|
| New complaints received                                     | 26           | 203 |
| New files opened                                            | 14           | 117 |
| Files closed                                                | 5            | 57  |
| Warning Letters issued                                      | 23           | 206 |
| Enforcement Notice issued                                   | 11           | 61  |
| Legal                                                       | 0            | 19  |

## LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

- Mentoring:** LEO Clare has had a substantial demand for one-to-one mentoring support. To date, 316 clients have been assigned expert mentors to assist them in enhancing their businesses, 26 of those assigned during the month of September.
- Training:** Approx. 150 participants took part in a range of training programmes over the month of September, in the areas of Start Your Own Business, Bookkeeping, Social Media & Artificial Intelligence training.
- Productivity Supports:** With rising prices affecting all businesses, LEO Clare has various productivity supports to assist businesses offset higher input costs. To date in September, LEO Clare have processed applications for 27 Digital for Business, 23 Green for Business and 13 Lean for Business consultancies, along with 18 Energy Efficiency Grants and 7 Grow Digital Vouchers.

### National Ploughing Championships 2025:

Creative Clay, a small business supported by Local Enterprise Office Clare, exhibited at the National Ploughing Championships 2025 as part of the Local Enterprise Village. Creative Clay is a small studio based in Sixmilebridge & the owner, Raquel Walsh, crafts one-of-a-kind ceramic pieces which are inspired by the wild beauty of the Burren. Almost 300,000 people visited the National Ploughing Championships in Scraggan, County Offaly in September.



L-R: Raquel Walsh, Creative Clay & Helen Pilkington, Local Enterprise Office Clare

### Women in Business Networking event:

Local Enterprise Office Clare hosted a Women in Business networking event at the Inn at Dromoland on 3rd September. The keynote speaker was Aileen Bodkin, who has over 23 years of experience in founding and managing two successful SMEs. Aileen is a founder involved in a startup that is developing an innovative software solution 'Sizable' aimed at reducing online clothing returns for retailers. She leverages her vast experience & knowledge in Creativity and Business Management to help others establish solid business foundations, enabling growth and customer-centric solutions. The event welcomed over 45 local female entrepreneurs and was widely regarded as a resounding success.



L-R: Marie Thornton & Theresa Mulvihill Killeen, LEO Clare, Aileen Bodkin, Allyson English, Samantha McCarthy, Clare County Council

### Student Enterprise Programme 2025/2026:

LEO Clare launched Ireland's largest student enterprise programme with induction days in a total seventeen secondary schools countywide. Over 1,000 students will be participating in this year's programme and students will compete across three categories, Junior, Intermediate and Senior. Each student enterprise is challenged with creating, setting up and running their own business, which must show sales of their service or product.

### Shannon Chamber Sustainability Conference:

LEO Clare were delighted to sponsor Shannon Chamber's Sustainability Conference on 25th September in the Radisson Hotel. The event was the culmination of a week of events in Shannon Chambers Sustainability Week and hosted speakers from Coca Cola, Britvic, Zimmer Biomet, Reagacon, ESB & Clare based companies, ABC Nutritionals and AiP Thermoform Packaging. The conference welcomed many businesses across the region looking for support with their sustainability journey.



L-R: Theresa Mulvihill Killeen & Helen Pilkington, LEO Clare

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## PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

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### Property Transactions and Conveyancing

The Table below shows the number of property transactions completed by Property Management Unit up to 29th September, year to date and the corresponding figures for 2024.

The property market in the County continues to be quite active, albeit that there is a shortage of supply, particularly in the residential sector. The Property Management unit continues to assist many solicitors acting for their clients on issues associated with title, boundaries, old leasehold folios etc. We are also processing a number of applications for first registration of Council property to ensure they are properly registered with Tailte Éireann.

| Transaction type                         | September 2025 | Year to date 2025 | Full year 2024 |
|------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Lease / Sub Lease of Property / Building | 0              | 2                 | 6              |
| Licence to use property / building       | 1              | 7                 | 14             |
| Grazing Agreement for Lands              | 0              | 29                | 22             |
| Deed of Transfer signed                  | 0              | 11                | 9              |
| Contract for Sale / acquisition signed   | 1              | 1                 | 1              |
| Deed of Right of Way / Wayleave signed   | 1              | 2                 | 6              |
| Deed of Rectification / Variation signed | 1              | 1                 | 4              |
| Allotment Agreements signed              | 0              | 40                | 40             |

### Property Capital Projects

There are a number of capital projects at planning stage or at construction stage:

- **Tullyvarraga Community Hall upgrade**

The Property Team is working with the Committee for the Hall and

the Shannon Municipal District Team to assess the upgrade and re-habilitation works needed to address continuing defects in the building. This will also give an opportunity to see how the building can be improved to meet the needs of the community.

- **Bellevue House, Harmony Row, Ennis**

Works are well underway on the upgrading of this property, which is a protected structure. The works include an upgrade of Mechanical and Electrical services, which has not been done in 30 years. This project will also provide energy efficient measures, meeting room space, canteen and improved office space.

### Casual Trading

This has been a busy Summer season for Casual Trading activity with many events and festivals being held in the Summer months. Five licences were issued in the last month, including licences for traders at the successful Shannon MELA event. There are challenges to be met to ensure all traders are managed, do not create disruption or waste management issues when operational and this is a key focus of the team for this year. In addition, there are a number of unauthorized traders setting up around the County without licences and we have to be vigilant in ensuring they do not continue to operate without a licence in a public place.

## DERELICT SITES

A significant push to transform the many derelict properties across the County is underway with 285 derelict properties being dealt with under the Derelict Sites Act 1990 as of the 29th September 2025. The team maintains very high levels of activity and engagement with owners and their legal/technical representatives. This initial engagement 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, the Derelict Sites Team is quick to brief the new owners on their responsibilities under the Derelict Sites Act, 1990.

To bolster the momentum, the Council is advising property owners

on accessing the vacant property refurbishment grant. The Team is also seeing a consistent number of planning applications for property refurbishment/extensions, and it is clear from driving around the county the level of work ongoing on individual properties. The Derelict Sites Team believe that by working in partnership with owners and financial institutions, there are real opportunities for the positive revitalisation and re-development of many properties.



Kildysart before and after



North Clare before and after

The table below provides a snapshot of the activity in September 2025, figures for the year 2025 to date, with comparative figures for the full year 2024. There are 106 properties included in the Derelict Sites Register at 29th September 2025.

| Derelict Sites                                                                          | September 2025 | Year to date 2025 | Full Year 2024 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| No. of new files opened                                                                 | 2              | 45                | 35             |
| No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued - Intention to enter site on Derelict Sites Register | 14             | 46                | 36             |
| No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued - Entry of site onto Derelict Sites Register         | 7              | 29                | 43             |
| No. of Section 11 Notices issued - Measures required to render the site non-derelict    | 0              | 1                 | 2              |
| No. of files closed / property removed from Derelict Sites Register                     | 5              | 38                | 26             |
| No. of Notices served to Compulsorily Purchase derelict sites (CPO) (see note below)    | 7              | 12                | 7              |
| No of Vesting Orders signed                                                             | 2              | 5                 | 5              |

### Compulsory Acquisition of Derelict Sites (CPO)

The Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government is promoting a CPO activation programme for local authorities, with targets for the number of CPOs to be done by each local authority. The Table below sets out the status of CPOs commenced by the Derelict Sites Team in Clare County Council since 2022 to the

current year. It is important to note that the CPO process can be lengthy and complex.

| Year        | No of CPOs commenced | Current Status                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>2022</b> | 6                    | 3 – CPOs completed and property transferred to Housing for refurbishment works. Two of these are now completed and the other one commenced in February 2025. |
|             |                      | 1 – was paused and is being re-commenced in 2025                                                                                                             |
|             |                      | 1 – CPO completed and sale closed in August 2024- New owner has commenced works                                                                              |
|             |                      | 1 - works have commenced and CPO parked for now                                                                                                              |
| <b>2023</b> | 10                   | 3- At Vesting Stage and lodged in Tailte Éireann                                                                                                             |
|             |                      | 1 – CPO completed and property was sold in December 2024 – Planning application received for re-development                                                  |
|             |                      | 1 To be refurbished by Housing Department                                                                                                                    |
|             |                      | 2 - Title received from Tailte Éireann. One is sale agreed and two are being prepared for sale.                                                              |
|             |                      | 1 - Options for the building are being assessed at present                                                                                                   |
|             |                      | 1 - Objection received and CPO process has re-commenced in 2025                                                                                              |
|             |                      | 1 - Works are being commenced                                                                                                                                |

|      |    |                                                                                                   |
|------|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2024 | 6  | 3 - At Vesting Stage and lodged in PRA                                                            |
|      |    | 1 - Title received from Tailte Éireann. Property is being prepared for sale.                      |
|      |    | 2 - CPO commenced, appealed to An Bord Pleanála and rejected - both are being re-assessed in 2025 |
|      |    |                                                                                                   |
| 2025 | 12 | 7 - CPO process commenced in last Month                                                           |
|      |    | 5 - At Vesting Stage and lodged with Tailte Éireann                                               |

In addition, the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund will provide a revolving fund for CPOs of properties in the town of Ennis with the objective being that they would then be sold on the open market. We work closely with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the particular emphasis is on properties that have potential for residential use. Two such CPOs are with the PRA for registration. Actions taken on properties in the town of Ennis has resulted in a number of properties coming to market or making plans for site development.

### Derelict Site Levy

Determination of valuations on properties on the Derelict Sites Register is ongoing and notices of valuation have issued to properties as detailed in the table below. Four owners had appealed the valuation to the Valuation Tribunal and the following decisions have been made i.e. one appeal was rejected, one withdrawn, one settled and one is outstanding. The levy is an annual levy while the property remains on the Derelict Sites Register and amounts to 7% of the value of the property, on an annual basis. Assessment of valuations and billing of the levy will be further progressed during 2025 and it is intended that all properties on the Derelict Sites Register will be valued for the purposes of billing the levy. This levy will go towards the cost of billing and collection of the levy and resourcing of derelict sites function, up to and including CPO of properties.

The Table below shows the levels of activity on the Derelict sites levy as at 29th September 2025. All other properties on the Derelict sites register are being valued for the purposes of the Derelict sites levy.

| Derelict Sites Levy                                                           | September 2025 | Full Year 2025 | Full Year 2024 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| No. of properties on which the levy was billed                                | 1              | 25             | 9              |
| Amount billed in respect of Derelict sites Levy                               | €14,000        | €333,410       | €124,110       |
| Amount collected                                                              | 0              | €44,859        | €14,300        |
| Number of properties on which valuations have been requested                  | 12             | 46             | 26             |
| Number of properties on which notices of Valuation have been issued to owners | 7              | 33             | 18             |
| Number of properties where the notice of valuation was appealed by the owner  | 0              | 0              | 4              |

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

As of the 23rd September 2025, the value of grants approved by Clare County Council under the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant Scheme is almost €27 million (448 grant applications approved or 67% of all applications), with further approvals due to issue.

This is a very significant investment in housing in County Clare and the work ongoing around the county on renovations and extensions is very visible. The Vacant Homes Team continues to advise applicants by phone and in person on all elements of the scheme and is available to meet with individuals (by appointment) to take them through the process.

The Grant is making a real difference in boosting the supply of rental properties and properties for permanent residence and will deliver on a key priority of 'Housing for All' National Policy and the Vacant Homes Action Plan, the key objective of which is to reduce vacancy and dereliction in our cities, towns, villages and rural countryside and provide more housing options in the process.

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

| Amount approved by Local Electoral Area (including those with grant funding paid out) |                 |                           |                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Local Electoral Area                                                                  | Number approved | Total amount approved (€) | % of total number of Grants |
| Kilrush LEA                                                                           | 155             | €9.4 million              | 35%                         |
| Ennistymon LEA                                                                        | 90              | €5.5 million              | 21%                         |
| Killaloe LEA                                                                          | 83              | €4.86 million             | 18%                         |
| Ennis LEA                                                                             | 71              | €4.0 million              | 15%                         |
| Shannon LEA                                                                           | 49              | €2.9 million              | 11%                         |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                                                                    | <b>448</b>      | <b>€26.75 million</b>     | <b>100%</b>                 |

We continue to have high levels of enquiries and applications for the Grants and the total applications since the scheme was introduced in July 2022 is 661, with 164 received in 2025 to date. 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 PAID OUT €.79 MILLION TO 167 PROPERTY OWNERS IN COUNTY CLARE WHO HAVE COMPLETED WORKS - THAT MEANS**

**THAT 36% OF ALL GRANTS APPROVED HAVE BEEN PAID OUT TO DATE.**

Many others are in the process of submitting their claims for payment. Once the final site inspections take place, all the financial and legal elements of the grant are completed. The level of claims for payment is increasing every day and the Team work closely with owners on this process.

#### Other Points of Information

1. The breakdown of applications between urban and rural areas has remained consistent - 56% of applications are for rural areas of the county and 44% for properties in towns and villages.
2. To date, 70% of applications are for properties to be used as principal private residence (456 properties) and the balance of 30% are for rent.
3. Approximately 58 property owners have applied to have the period to complete the works extended. Such requests are considered on a case by case basis, depending on the level of work carried out to date and the timeframe needed to complete the works.

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

Following the summer works programme, September was again extremely busy with many projects and schemes progressing

## ENNIS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

during the month throughout the Town and Environs. Also during the month, Executive Engineer Kevin Carroll, a valuable member of the Team left us to take up a new position in his native County. All in Ennis MD wish Kevin well and thank him for his service.

Some of the main items carried out since the last Monthly Report are detailed below.

### Urbact E-Connecting

As advised previously, Ennis is the Irish Partner in the above EU Project and during the month, representatives from Ennis MD joined other European Partners at the final Urbact E-Connecting transnational meeting in Faenza, Italy. The E-Connecting project which began in September 2023 is due to finish at the end of 2025. This meeting was an opportunity for all the partners to present their own journey in the development of the 'Integrated Action Plan' for their area. This collaborative EU project proved to be a very valuable knowledge sharing experience for all. Mayor of

Ennis MD, Cllr. Mary Howard and A/SEE Paddy Tiernan presented Ennis MD's integrated action plan to the Urbact Secretariat, Lead Partner and Lead Expert. The experience of going through the Urbact methodology will strengthen any future EU funding applications





### Co-Creating Works

Ennis MD crews continued to work on the Co-Creating project throughout September. This project involves the tightening of junctions and the installation of raised pedestrian crossings throughout key locations in the town to improve accessibility and pedestrian safety. To date, over 20 junctions in Ennis have been upgraded under this scheme. The latest improvements carried out during September include four junctions along Lifford Road.



### Quin Road - Road Works

During the past month, Ennis MD crews carried out road strengthening and stabilising work on the R469 Quin Rd at two locations in the townland of Ballaghboy. This work is in response to the structural failure of the westbound carriageway. Several new drainage outlets were also installed as part of the project. The works were programmed to be completed in time for the upcoming re-surfacing of the Quin Road.



### Road Strengthening and Stabilisation at Kilfeilim

Also during the month, Ennis MD carried out road repairs and road stabilisation works on the L-8168 within the townland of Kilfeilim. This important local road provides access to several residential properties as well as access to a commercial business which generates a significant amount of HGV movements. Over time, these movements had resulted in the road deteriorating

significantly with a consequential risk of collapse. Ennis MDs timely intervention has eliminated this risk and strengthened the road for use over the years ahead.



### Low Cost Safety Scheme - Clarecastle

Ennis MD staff commenced work on a Low Cost Safety Scheme in Clarecastle during September. The project involves new raised pedestrian crossings on Patrick Street and the tightening of the Lissane Road junction. The project also includes upgrades and extensions to footpaths, the installation of drainage and the installation of new signage. The project, when complete, will increase the safety of all road users in the area.



### Low Cost Safety Scheme - Barefield

Similarly, the Low-cost safety project planned for Barefield village has commenced. The project will extend the existing footpath on the Ruan Road to the junction of the R458. The scheme also includes traffic calming, pedestrian crossings, and additional street lighting at the junction with the R458 Ennis to Gort Road resulting in the increased safety of all road users in the area.



### Barrack Street

Ennis MD organised for the trees to be cut back on Barrack Street, this is to facilitate the erection of the large parasol as part of the ongoing Public Realm works in the area which are nearing completion.



### Ennis N.S Walking Bus

Following consultation with Ennis National School, Ennis MD carried out landscaping works along Cnoc na Scoile to accommodate the safe routes to school walking bus initiative undertaken by the school. Works included trimming of overgrowth, removal of weeds and grass cutting along the route.



### Traffic Light Upgrades Ennis

The existing pedestrian traffic lights have been upgraded with a new ELV controller and new traffic light signal heads on Harmony Row in advance of the new school semester commencing. Civil works and installation were carried out by Ennis MD staff the Council Electricians. The works were completed in order to improve safety in the area that is used heavily by the public and school children enroute to and from the town centre.



### Repair works at Garden of Remembrance

Following vandalism and damage to the limestone sculpture in the Children's Garden of Remembrance in Cloughleigh, a specialist contractor was engaged to undertake repair works and restore the sculpture to its original state.



### Ennis MD Public Events

Ennis MD were delighted to facilitate, in collaboration with various stakeholders, a number of public events over the last month. Events including the Long Grazing Acre and Local Blacksmith events carried out over 2 consecutive weekends in the Market Building attracted large numbers. Ennis MD also worked closely with An Garda Siochana, Project Management Office in Clare County Council and Quare Clare in accommodating the Clare Pride March in Ennis which was followed by a number of family friendly events in Glor over the same weekend.



### Key Strategic Projects

In addition to the above, Ennis MD staff continue to progress and assist on a number of other key projects within the District such as the Town Bus Project, the Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) relating to the DRAFT Local Transport Plan. We also continue to work on a cross-directorate basis with our colleagues, supported by the various Government Departments, in advancing a number of other works throughout the Town and Environs.

Other projects that Ennis MD staff are involved with include the Ennis Public Realm Project, the LIHAF Access Road project, the THRIVE project at the Cloister as well as the development of a carpark in conjunction with the GAA at the Cloister end of Cusack Park.

In addition, we also work closely with our DAC colleagues in developing the ambitious plans outlined in the *Ennis 2040 Economic & Spatial Strategy*. Of particular interest during the month was the completion of the purchase of the former Boys National School site on the Kilrush Road as well as an extremely useful meeting the Council held with Roche Senior Executives, both local and from their HQ in Switzerland, along with the IDA and Enterprise Ireland regarding progress on the remediation works occurring on the Clarecastle site presently and the next steps required in planning for the future opportunities the remediated site will present.



# PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

## TRANSPORTATION

### Roadworks Programme and Operations

The 2025 Roadworks Programme is progressing well in all 4 Municipal Districts.

### Strategic Transportation

#### Active Travel

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

##### **Tulla Road Active Travel Scheme:**

The construction tender for the Tulla Road Active Travel Scheme has been awarded to Neville Civil Works. Construction is expected to begin on site in the coming weeks and is scheduled to last for 12 - 15 months.

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

Final iterations of Preliminary Design drawings have been issued for approval to the NTA. It is anticipated that the scheme will go to non-statutory public consultation in the coming weeks.

##### **Ardnacrusha to Athlunkard Bridge:**

The NTA have reverted with comments and feedback on the Draft Option Selection Report that was previously submitted. Clare County Council is addressing these comments with a view to agreeing on a preferred option for final submission to progress to the Preliminary Design Phase.

##### **Safe Routes / School program:**

##### **Gaelscoil Ennis:**

Consultants have been appointed to investigate potential options for linking Corrovorrin and Fi-oruisce residential areas.

It is also proposed to install a raised uncontrolled crossing between the school and the Gort Rd as part of the Safer Routes to School Scheme.

##### **Holy Family National School Phase 2:**

This scheme is complete, and the project launched on the 1st October.

##### **Barefield National School**

Works are underway which will provide safer connectivity between Barefield Village and Barefield National School.

##### **The Bus Stop Enhancement Programme:**

The NTA has established a Bus Stop Enhancement Programme for Local Authorities which will provides an allocation of €500,000 to each Local Authority to facilitate the enhancement / upgrade of existing bus stops to meet the Transport for Ireland minimum requirements for customer experience. Clare County Council is engaging with the NTA in relation to the upgrading of bus stops throughout the county.

## Road Design Office

| Project                                                     | Progress Update                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Bridge Rehabilitation Programme</b>                      | <p>The 2025 Bridge Rehabilitation works have been completed at the following bridges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glendree</li> <li>• Raheen</li> <li>• Beakelly</li> </ul> <p>Further works are required at Leaghort Bridge. A structural engineer is being appointed to inspect and design repairs.</p> <p>A contractor has been appointed to carry out bridge rehabilitation works at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Castlebank Bridge</li> <li>• Gaurus Bridge</li> <li>• Aughavaddy Bridge</li> <li>• Knockdonagh Bridge</li> </ul> <p>Tender documents are being finalised for Shragh Bridge.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads</b> | <p><b>Low Cost Safety Schemes in 2025:</b></p> <p>The 2025 Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads grant application has been approved, the funding for this year totals €640,000. The projects are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L2016/L6044 Johnny Mac's Cross - Works are progressing</li> <li>• L-3300, L-3301&amp; L-3306 Cronan Junction Shannon - Section 38 process is complete &amp; works have been tendered</li> <li>• R352 Bodyke Tuamgraney - Design is Complete</li> <li>• L-4174 &amp; L4172 Claremount, Clarecastle - Lissane Junction - Section 38 process is complete</li> <li>• L5192 Ardnaculla Ennistymon - Works have commenced</li> <li>• L-3110 Phayers Rd, Meelick - Works have commenced</li> <li>• L-4158 Barefield Village - Works have been tendered</li> <li>• L-1041 East of Bealaclugga - Design is complete</li> <li>• R485 North of M18 Junction 9 @ Cullen - Design is complete</li> <li>• R-463-125 Ardcloney Bridge, Killaloe - Design is Complete</li> <li>• R473 Kiladysart National School - Section 38 process is complete</li> <li>• Specific Improvement Ogonolloe</li> <li>• A Section 38 process has commenced for Phase 2 of the safety improvement works.</li> </ul> |

## TII Safety Improvement

| Project                                | Progress Update                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>HD17 &amp; Other Safety Project</b> | <p><b>N85 Clareabbey Roundabout</b><br/>Comments are awaited from TII on the draft Preliminary Design Report.</p> <p><b>N85/N68 Rocky Road Roundabout</b><br/>A Stage 1 Road Safety Audit has been completed.</p> <p><b>N67 Lahinch Pedestrian Crossings</b><br/>A Stage 1 Road Safety Audit has been completed.</p> <p><b>N67 Mount Charles Terrace</b><br/>Departure Application has been accepted in accordance with TII Publication GE-GEN-01005 Departures from Standards. An AA screening for the proposed works is to be completed in the coming weeks.</p> <p><b>N67 Clohanes Junction Safety Improvement</b><br/>A Stage 1 Road Safety Audit is scheduled for Q4</p> <p><b>N67 Caherfeenick Junction Safety Improvement</b><br/>A Stage 1 Road Safety Audit is scheduled for Q4</p> <p><b>N67 Doonbeg</b><br/>A draft Preliminary Design Report has been submitted to TII for review &amp; was reviewed with TII on site.</p> <p><b>N67 Miltownmalbay</b><br/>A draft Feasibility and Options Report for junction improvements consisting of a mini roundabout have been forwarded to TII for comment.</p> |

## Cycling Infrastructure / Smarter Travel

| Project                 | Progress Update                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Doolin Cycle Hub</b> | Sport Ireland have completed an inspection of the four Doolin Cycle Loops in accordance with the new 'Recreational Cycle Trail Criteria for Ireland.' The report recommendations have been reviewed by the Road Design Office and the required works advised to the Municipal District. Sport Ireland have recommended that these cycling loops should have signage in one direction only. A plan is now being progressed to identify signage works required. |
| <b>EuroVelo</b>         | Further to the inspection by Sport Ireland 80% of snags on the route have now been rectified. Future works will also include the updating of existing information mapboards on the route.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

## Noise Action Plan

| Project                             | Progress Update                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>R5 Noise Action Plan Mapping</b> | Work has commenced with respect to planning the R5 Strategic Noise Mapping for the next action plan. TII will no longer carry out Noise Mapping for Non National Roads. It is currently under discussion at CCMA level as to how this mapping will be delivered. |

## Machinery Yard - Fleet Replacement Plan / Fleet Decarbonisation

The Machinery Yard took receipt of 6no Electric Pick-Ups and 2 no EV Vans to be distributed across the county to MD's and sections within the organisation. The vans became operational in late August and shall contribute towards the de-carbonisation of the CCC Fleet and work towards the Transport Actions within the Clare County Council Climate Action Plan.

ancillary safety statements, risk assessments, schedule of safety inspections, briefings with staff etc.

Following successful certification to ISO 45001:2018 in the Physical Directorate, Housing, and Fire & Rescue Services last year, an ISO 45001 surveillance audit will take place in December. The audit will be carried out by the NSAI, and the Health and Safety team are currently engaging with the relevant sections in relation to preparing for the audit.

A new Health and Safety Officer will be taking up their appointment on the 6th October, filling a vacancy within the Health and Safety team and organisation due to the previous officer transferring to Uisce Éireann.

## Health and Safety

The Health and Safety team are continuing to carry out their work programme including the annual revision and updating of

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## CAPITAL DELIVERY / PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE

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|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Doolin Pier</b>                                 | The PMO is currently liaising with the department regarding future funding requirements to bring project to Planning stage. The MD is progressing construction of footpaths between Fisher Street and Doolin Pier, for which works are scheduled for resumption in coming months. Once complete, this will ensure that pedestrian connectivity between Fisher Street and Doolin Pier.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Ennis Public Realm Regeneration (Project B)</b> | The project works are now significantly completed. 5 of 8 phases are now complete and 1 other phase (Barrack Square) is due to be re-opened to through traffic in early October. With the Cathedral area hand over, and in combination with works previously completed along O'Connell Street, there is now a continuous stretch of Shared Space Public Realm Streetscape fully open for the use and enjoyment by our traders and the public. The revised layout of O'Connell Square is clear to be seen, now that construction areas are giving way to newly finished sections of paving. The street planters now delineate the new central plaza area within the square and showcase the clean geometrical lines of the street fountain. The street fountain installation itself is well progressed, with interconnecting mechanical and electrical services in place, and paving being completed in preparation for commissioning. The contractor has recently mobilised to the areas south and east of the monument to progress construction of steps, thereby replacing existing railings and access, and resulting in a revised access and presentation of this side of O'Connell Square. Contract resources are now being concentrated at Bank Place and large areas of newly paved shared space and pavement have been completed in recent weeks. The works from Bank Place to the Post Office bridge will be the last work element to be completed and we look forward to restoring through traffic to this route at the earliest opportunity. |

|                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                          | <p>Consultation with impacted traders and stakeholders is ongoing, and the contractor has appointed a Public Liaison Officer in this regard, in line with Works Requirements. Focused stakeholder consultation events were held on 9th December 2024, 19th March 2025, and 9th June 2025 to review upcoming works phases. The contractor is also issuing weekly newsletters to inform of upcoming works. (Subscribe to <a href="mailto:ennispublicrealm@shareridge.ie">ennispublicrealm@shareridge.ie</a>). The contractor, project team, and Clare County Council Resident Engineering staff are available to help traders and the public with any concerns and to mitigate impacts from the works wherever possible. It continues to be necessary to close streets to allow these works to be completed safely, and the project team and contractor, together with Ennis MD are working hard to coordinate activities to keep traffic impacts to a minimum and ensure that Ennis is kept open for business throughout the remaining months of this project.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Ennistymon Inner Relief Road and Bridge Crossing (Blake's Corner)</b> | <p>Legal and stakeholder liaison is ongoing. We await the outcome of Judicial review preliminary proceedings.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Killaloe Bridge, Bypass &amp; R494 Upgrade</b>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Project is contractually Substantially Complete.</li> <li>• The Project is now in the 12 Months Defects Liability Period.</li> <li>• Some minor Accommodation Works are ongoing.</li> <li>• Project Snagging/De-slagging continues.</li> <li>• Open NCRs (Non-Conformance Reports) steadily being closed out.</li> <li>• Site compound de-mobilisation has commenced.</li> <li>• As-Built records being collated.</li> <li>• Project Safety File is being prepared.</li> <li>• Landscape maintenance ongoing.</li> <li>• Old bridge was closed on Mon. 28th July to vehicular traffic for trial period. New traffic layout seems to be working well.</li> <li>• Project Archaeologists Rubicon are editing video of recent talk given by Bruce Sutton at public open meeting during Heritage Week. 50-60 attendees showed up for presentation at Lakeside Hotel. Link to video will be provided shortly.</li> <li>• <a href="https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/capital-projects/roads-and-bridges/killaloe-bypass-shannon-bridge-crossing/">https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/capital-projects/roads-and-bridges/killaloe-bypass-shannon-bridge-crossing/</a></li> <li>• Commercial administration is ongoing toward finalising the account and cost.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme</b>                                        | <p>Following receipt of approval with conditions by An Coimisiún Pleanála on 22.08.25 the scheme is currently in the Judicial Review moratorium period which concludes on 17.10.25.</p> <p>Gap analysis reports for Stage III surveys have been issued by the consultant. It has been agreed to prepare the necessary specifications and move to tendering.</p> <p>Discussions with landowners regarding the necessary temporary and permanent acquisitions are ongoing. The consultant has engaged utility providers for areas where permissions may be required.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF)</b>              | <p>Discussions continue with regard the acquisition of the final land parcel associated with the infrastructure delivery. All other land parcels required for the road have been acquired/agreed terms including the parcel of lands where the first approx. 225 housing units will be delivered.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>N19 Shannon Airport Access Road</b>                                   | <p>The EIAR (Environmental Impact Assessment Report) and NIS (Natura Impact Statement) documentation for the N19 Shannon Airport Access Road Improvement Scheme has now undergone a comprehensive legal review over recent months and the comments raised are being considered by our consultants Fehily Timoney &amp; Co. and their respective specialist assessors.</p> <p>This process will conclude over the coming months culminating in a briefing to MD councillors.</p> <p>It is hoped that following the final legal review we will be submitting this project for Statutory Consent later in 2025. Phase 5 (Enabling and Procurement) &amp; Phase 6 (Construction) will progress thereafter 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>As always, further information and associated literature on the project can be accessed via the scheme website <a href="http://www.shannonaccess.ie">www.shannonaccess.ie</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Remediation of sites containing ACM</b>                               | <p>A Planning Application in respect of the remediation of the subject sites has been prepared. The sites continue to be routinely monitored and maintained as required by council staff in accordance with approach as agreed with the EPA.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

|                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Shannon Town &amp; Environs Flood Relief Scheme</b>                                           | A meeting has been arranged to discuss the next steps required as part of the ongoing Value Engineering exercise. A proposal for the site investigation works around the fuel depot has been issued for CCC's review. A meeting has been arranged with Mara in relation to the requirement for a Marine Usage License (MUL) for the proposed SI works. Two submissions have been received for the provision of pre-planning archaeology testing across the scheme. On receipt of the third submission the consultant will assess all and issue their recommendation for CCC's review.                                                             |
| <b>West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 1: Kilrush to Kilkee)</b>                                | Clare County Council, in conjunction with ROD Consulting Engineers, has commenced drafting the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and the Natura Impact Statement (NIS). Finalisation of the general arrangement and land acquisition drawings is currently underway. In the coming weeks, meetings will be held with all affected landowners to present the completed drawings and address any concerns. Following these consultations, land valuations will be updated accordingly. Meanwhile, the tendering process for the Ground Investigation Works is ongoing, with the appointment of the successful contractor expected soon. |
| <b>West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 2: Ennis to Ennistymon)</b>                              | Work is progressing steadily on the Options Selection Report for Section 2 of the Greenway. This phase involves a comprehensive evaluation of potential route corridors, taking into account environmental constraints, engineering feasibility, landownership considerations, and community feedback. The project team is currently analysing data from site surveys, stakeholder consultations, and technical assessments to identify the most suitable option that balances sustainability, accessibility, and cost-effectiveness. Once the preferred route corridor is determined, it will be submitted to TII for comment and approval.      |
| <b>West Clare Railway Greenway (Sections 3 &amp; 4: Ennistymon to Miltown Malbay to Moyasta)</b> | Unfortunately progress on Sections 3 & 4 (Ennistymon, Lahinch, Miltown Malbay, Quilty, Mullagh, Doonbeg, Moyasta) is currently at a standstill as these two projects did not receive funding allocation under Transport Infrastructure Ireland's 2025 budget.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

## General Design Office

|                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Kilrush Cycle/Walkway</b>                                       | Environmental consultant procured and reports have issued to the West Clare MD office for review.                                                                                                              |
| <b>Lees Road, Lighting Upgrade</b>                                 | Tenders received and contractor appointed. All lighting will be changed to LED lights.                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Tullyvarraga Community Hall</b>                                 | Proposed maintenance and repair works. Tender package issued to contractors, tender submissions to be returned by early October.                                                                               |
| <b>Fáilte Ireland Platforms for Growth Facility Bal-lycuggaran</b> | Works are progressing to final stages, with a completion date of November 2025. The project has been delayed with Fáilte Ireland requiring some changes to the Access Control system and their signage design. |



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## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

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|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Scarriff RRP Phase 1 Buildings &amp; Car Park</b> | Construction works are progressing well. Roofing of the new Community Enterprise Centre (former Merriman Tavern) has started with the rebuilding of the Digital Hub (former Supermacs) building complete, car park underground services have been installed, and the project is 53% complete<br> |
| <b>Lees Road, Lighting Upgrade</b>                   | Contractor due on-site end of September.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Lees Road, Toilet Upgrade</b>                     | Tender process complete and contractor appointed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Bellevue House</b>                                | Project ongoing. 1st fix M&E is 100% complete, 2nd fix M&E is 30% complete. Ground floor MF and Grid ceiling 100% complete.<br>External ground works ongoing and are approximately 75% complete. Internal painting commenced.<br>                                                               |
| <b>Cloughleigh Playground Upgrade</b>                | Tender documents have been circulated, and contractor is expected to be appointed in the coming weeks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Lahinch Playground</b>                            | Contractor expected to commence works mid-September.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

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## FIRE & BUILDING CONTROL SECTION

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### Training Courses

Clare County Fire & Rescue Service personnel underwent a number of training courses during September including Winch and Hiab training held in Ennis, Kilrush and Kilkee Stations. Swift-water and Flood First Responder training (SFR) held in Ennis, Scariff and Killaloe Stations. One new recruit firefighter from Kilkee Fire Station commenced a QQI accredited Firefighting Skills Course in Bandon Fire Station on 22nd September 2025.



| Fire & Building Control Section                   |          |                                |                      |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Main Activities                                   | Aug 2025 | Sept 2025<br>(Up to 25th Sept) | Year to Date<br>2025 |
| Number of Emergency Calls Attended                | 97       | 80                             | <b>1002</b>          |
| Number of Fire Safety Certificates Received       | 4        | 5                              | <b>76</b>            |
| Number of Fire Safety Certificates Granted        | 3        | 3                              | <b>81</b>            |
| Number of Fire Safety Certificates Invalidated    | 0        | 0                              | <b>1</b>             |
| Number of Disability Access Certificates Received | 4        | 4                              | <b>56</b>            |
| Number of Disability Access Certificates Granted  | 3        | 3                              | <b>58</b>            |
| Number of Commencement Notices Received           | 41       | 29                             | <b>288</b>           |
| Number of Dangerous Structures/Places Complaints  | 0        | 0                              | <b>5</b>             |

## CLARE CIVIL DEFENCE



*Clare Civil Defence volunteers at the "Faces of our Community" Event.*

### Operational Duties:

- Civil Defence provided medical cover at a number of events in September including charity Tractor Run (Newmarket On Fergus); Senior Club Football quarter-finals and semi-finals (Cusack Park); Senior Club Hurling quarter-finals and semi-finals (Cusack Park) and Scarriff Agri Show (Scarriff).
- Clare Civil Defence members were tasked by An Garda Síochána to assist with two missing person searches in September. On both occasions Civil Defence volunteers were able to locate the missing people with drone technology resulting in the safe return of both individuals. The Boat Team were also placed on stand-by by An Garda Síochána for a river rescue in Ennis.

### Members Training & Professional Development

- Clare Civil Defence volunteers have returned to weekly training including Year Two students who have commenced a First Aid Responder Course.
- Manual Handling recertification course has been held for a number of volunteers.
- 17 new volunteers have commenced their Recruits Basic Training Programme.

### Faces of our Community

- A number of volunteers attended "Faces of our Community" in the De Valera Library and Súil Gallery, Ennis. This event was organised by the Clare Volunteers Centre and supported by Clare County Council. Clare Civil Defence volunteers and the winner of the John Cuddihy Clare Civil Defence Volunteer of the Year 2024, Mr. Robert Cleary, represented Clare Civil Defence at the event.

### Healthy Farmer Event

Volunteers assisted the National Ambulance Service with the "Healthy Farmer" Event at Ennis Mart. Volunteers assisted with testing of blood pressure and blood sugar levels.



*Volunteer First Officer Mark Hayes at the Healthy Farmer Event*

## ENVIRONMENT



### Environmental Awareness

#### An Taisce Green School Seminars

On 18th September 2025, An Taisce hosted a series of online Green School seminars for schools across Clare. The event featured breakout rooms where An Taisce presented on environmental themes such as Litter and Waste, Water, Energy, Biodiversity as well as Global Citizenship themes. These seminars offered Green School Coordinators the chance to learn more about the environmental theme that their school is currently working on. Attendees also had the opportunity to meet with our Environmental Awareness Officer and learn about local supports and initiatives.

#### Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) Requests

To date, 20 AIE requests have been received. One of these has progressed to internal review and is currently under appeal to the Office of the Commissioner for Environmental Information (OCEI). Decision makers and support staff are currently receiving training to strengthen their knowledge of the AIE Regulations and their capacity to handle AIE requests.

#### Waste prevention at the Harvest Music Festival

Our Environmental Awareness Officer attended the launch of the reusable cup initiative at the Harvest Music Festival, which took place at the Ennis Showgrounds on Sunday, 28th September. This initiative was supported through our Building a Circular Community Grant Scheme. As part of the festival's green initiative visitors were encouraged to bring their own reusable cup or borrow one through a deposit-return scheme.

#### September awareness campaigns

Throughout September, we supported a variety of environmental campaigns across both print and social media platforms. These included raising awareness about invasive alien species,

promoting good agricultural practices, highlighting the My Waste My Club seminars, encouraging responsible dog ownership and mattress amnesty day.

#### Clare FM Ours to Protect

During September our Environmental Awareness Officer was interviewed by Pat Flynn on the Clare FM **Ours to Protect** series discussing how the circular economy is taking shape in Clare and the ongoing work by both Clare County Council and local community groups to create more circularity within communities.

| Water Monitoring & Enforcement Scientific Team             | September 2025 | Total to date 2025 |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Bathing Water Monitoring                                   | 29             | 212                |
| Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant Inspections (NIP Plan) | 15(Water Team) | 68                 |
| Public queries processed regarding DWWTS grants            | 5              | 49                 |
| Monitoring Inspections of Section 4 licenced premises      | 7              | 70                 |
| Planning applications (Agriculture)                        | 11             | 65                 |
| Planning applications (Domestic)                           | 11             | 272                |
| Planning applications (Large Developments)                 | 1              | 22                 |
| Planning applications (Forestry)                           | 0              | 0                  |
| Pollution complaints received                              | 10             | 123                |
| Private Commercial Drinking Water Supplies                 | 0              | 51                 |
| Private/Public Group Water Scheme supplies                 | 18             | 161                |

|                                                       |    |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----|-----|
| Rivers                                                | 50 | 192 |
| Farm Inspections (NAIP) (Routine Planned & Unplanned) | 5  | 66  |

## Waste Enforcement

### Commercial Food Waste Inspections

Clare County Council is conducting inspections of commercial premises to ensure compliance with waste segregation requirements, particularly the obligation to segregate food waste in accordance with S.I. No. 508 of 2009 - Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009, as amended.

18 commercial premises were inspected in September, and post-inspection letters have been issued. This is in line with our RMCEI planned inspections for 2025.

### Anti-Dumping Initiative

#### Mattress Amnesty Day Central Waste Management Facility, Inagh

Clare County Council is conducting inspections of commercial premises to ensure compliance with waste segregation requirements, particularly the obligation to segregate food waste in accordance with S.I. No. 508 of 2009 - Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009, as amended.

18 commercial premises were inspected in September, and post-inspection letters have been issued. This is in line with our RMCEI planned inspections for 2025.

### Dog Fouling Measures Employed

In response to the identification of areas as Dog Fouling blackspots, our Dog Warden focused on specific locations to show a presence in the area, to engage with dog owners and advise them of their responsibilities. Stencilling was provided on the footpaths and "Audio Warning Devices" (purchased under the Anti-Dumping Initiative) were moved to the problem areas, to give a warning message about dog fouling.

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

Inspections of 8 permitted and 1 unauthorised facility were carried out by the Waste Enforcement team in September. Follow-up enforcement action is ongoing in the case of the unpermitted site. The permitted sites were inspected to monitor compliance with their permit conditions, to achieve positive environmental outcomes. An Authorised Treatment Facility for end-of-life vehicles was also inspected for compliance with its permit.

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

| Waste Enforcement Complaints | September 2025 | Total YTD 2025 |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Litter                       | 9              | 97             |
| Dog Fouling                  | 5              | 42             |
| Waste Presentation           | 2              | 17             |
| Dumping                      | 36             | 605            |
| CRM waste complaints (total) | 92             | 1,248          |

### Annual Return Validations and Inspections of WFP/ COR Sites

Validations of Annual Returns submitted by permit holders for 2024 continues throughout September as required by the Regional Waste Enforcement Lead Authority. This work involves site visits and liaison with site operators as well as desktop validation of data received.

### Advertising Signage

Ongoing liaison with auctioneers regarding the placement of signage on public lands directing potential buyers to properties for sale, advising them of their responsibilities under Section 19 of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 as amended.

### Abandoned Vehicles

In line with Clare County Council's policy and Section 71 of the Waste Management Act, we continue to monitor and take enforcement action on vehicles which are abandoned in public places. This work is carried out in conjunction with the Municipal Districts and An Garda Síochána. 14 abandoned car complaints were dealt with in September, leading to 3 being seized and transported to a permitted site for temporary storage.

### Waste Management

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

| Civic Amenity Site Waste Streams (KG) |                           |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Item                                  | August 2025 (latest Data) |
| Bulky items                           | 64,900                    |
| Cardboard                             | 25,512                    |
| Dry Recyclable                        | 518                       |
| Paper                                 | 19,460                    |
| Green Waste                           | 78,680                    |
| Mattresses                            | 5,920                     |
| Municipal Waste                       | 176,060                   |
| Plastic Packaging                     | 5,050                     |
| Timber                                | 130,860                   |

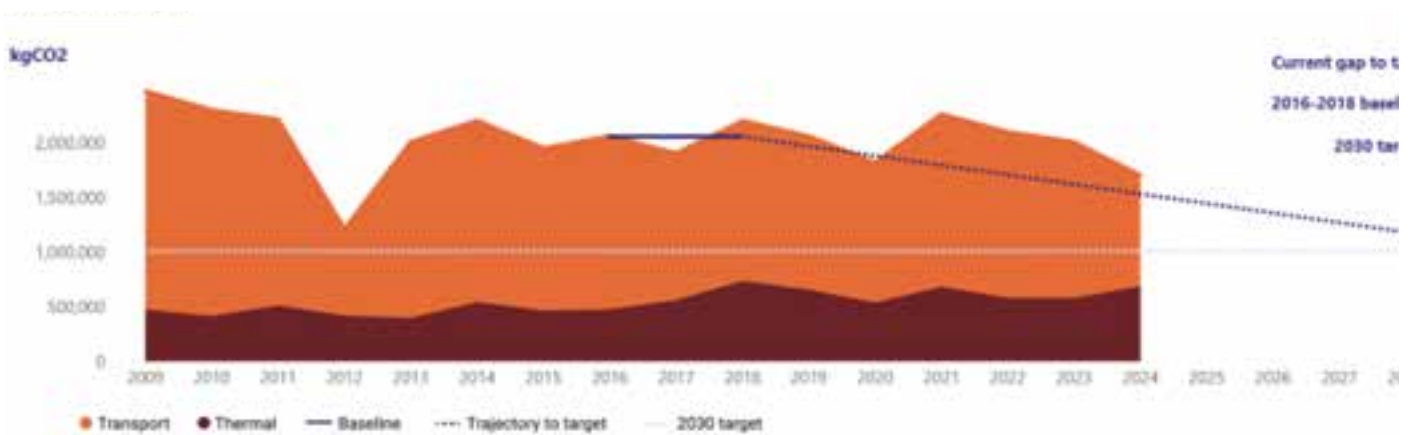
## CLIMATE ACTION

**SEAI Publish Emissions and Energy Target Progress for 2024**

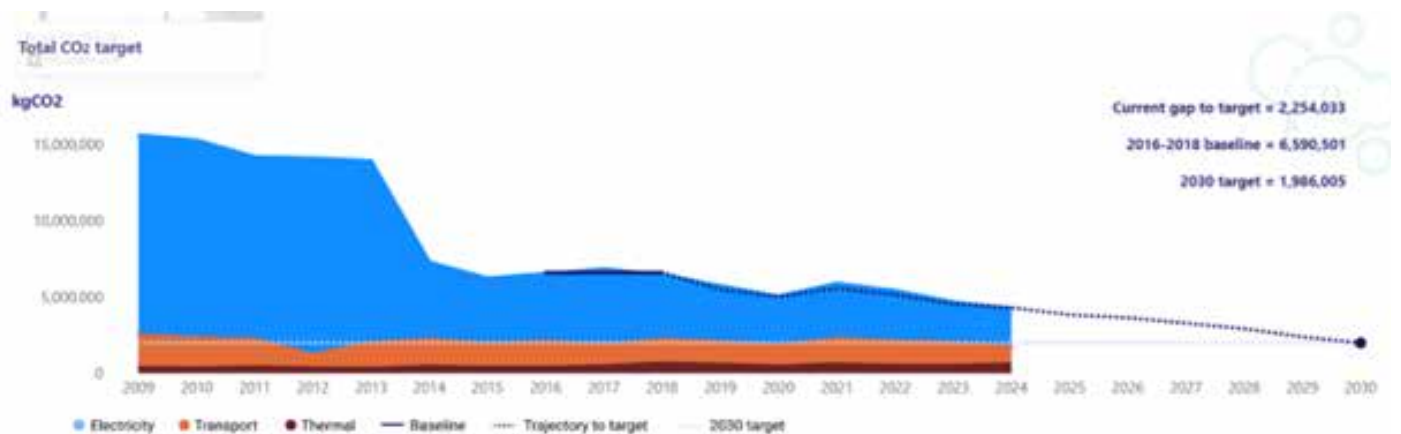
Clare County Council is subject to two emissions reduction targets, with the first to reduce emissions by 51% from transport and heating and the second to reduce emissions by 51% from transport, heating and electricity combined consumption. SEAI have finalised energy reporting for the year 2024 highlighting Clare County Councils progress towards these targets. In 2024 emissions from transport and heating were 17.2% below the baseline. To achieve our target we must reduce emissions by another 40.8% within the next 6 years. In 2024 emissions from transport, heating and electricity combined were 35.4% below

the baseline. To achieve our target we must reduce total emissions by another 53.3% within the next 6 years.

Clare County Council is actively using HVO, a sustainable zero-emission fuel, across our fleet and advancing the procurement of Electric Vehicles. We are also retrofitting large buildings swapping out fossil fuel heating systems for renewable sources such as heat pumps and biomass. We are also actively reducing our energy consumption through careful energy management, installation of energy efficient technologies such as LED lighting and generating our own renewable energy through the installation of Solar PV systems.



[SEAI Publish Emissions and Energy Target Progress for 2024 - Target 1]



[SEAI Publish Emissions and Energy Target Progress for 2024 - Target 2]

**NZEB & Retrofit Mobile Training Unit Coming to Clare**

Clare County Council, in collaboration with LOETB's Mount Lucas National Construction Training Centre, is bringing the NZEB & Retrofit Mobile Training Unit to Clare for the very first time from October 20th – 24th. This state-of-the-art mobile training unit, the only one of its kind in Ireland, offers a hands-on learning experience for those interested in construction, retrofit, and sustainable building practices, skills that are increasingly in demand as Ireland transitions towards a low-carbon future. We are working with local schools and community groups to participate in courses on board the rig throughout the week. We are also offering a limited number of places for staff of Clare County Council to participate in a Retrofit for Homeowners training session aboard the mobile unit while it is in Áras Contae an Chláir.



## Energy Clinic Takes Place in Ennis Library

Clare County Council's Energy Officer, hosted a free Energy Clinic in Ennis Library as part of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Week 2025. Community members booked 20-minute one-to-one sessions to receive tailored advice on topics such as solar PV installation, home energy retrofits, understanding energy bills, and available grants. The clinic supported Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Week 2025 and Clare's commitment to community climate action. Feedback was positive, with attendees appreciating the accessible, practical guidance provided to help improve energy efficiency and reduce household energy cost



## Climate Action: Education and Awareness

### SDG Week 2025 – September 19th to 28th

Clare County Council, in its role as an SDG Ambassador, proudly hosted Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Week for the fourth consecutive year from September 19th to 28th. This county-wide initiative was held in alignment with both National SDG Week and the European Sustainable Development Week (ESDW), underscoring Clare's continued commitment to sustainability, community engagement, and global cooperation. A diverse programme of events took place throughout the county, each designed to raise awareness of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and to encourage meaningful local action. Highlights of the week included:

- Energy Café
- SDG and Energy Awareness Event
- SDG Masterclass in collaboration with Global Action Plan and Ennis Tidy Towns
- Skills for Life Workshops hosted in local libraries
- Bike Maintenance Workshops
- Intergenerational Climate Action Workshop

These events provided valuable opportunities for individuals and communities to engage with the SDGs and explore practical ways to contribute to a more sustainable and equitable future.



## Intergenerational Climate Action Workshop

Clare County Council's Climate Action and Age Friendly teams, in collaboration with Common Knowledge and supported by the Creative Communities Project, hosted an inspiring Intergenerational Climate Action Workshop. The event brought together participants from the Cultural Companions – Age & Opportunity initiative and Clare Youth Service for a day of hands-on learning and meaningful connection.

Held at the Common Knowledge Centre in the heart of the Burren & Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark, the workshop focused on practical climate action through themes such as project planning, permaculture, growing your own food, and foraging. Participants worked side by side across generations to build their own planters, plant herbs and vegetables, and explore sustainable living practices.

Each attendee left with a self-made planter filled with herbs and lettuce—tangible reminders of the skills learned, and the community built. The workshop was enthusiastically received, with participants praising the engaging format and collaborative spirit.

This initiative also served as a strong example of cross-depart-



mental collaboration within Clare County Council, uniting the Climate Action, Age Friendly, and Creative Communities teams in a shared mission to empower citizens of all ages to take climate action.



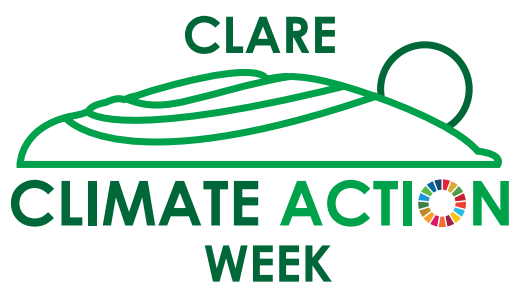
### National SDG Stakeholder Forum – September 2025

This month staff from the Climate Action Team attended the National SDG Stakeholder Forum at Croke Park. The Forum was established to support the ongoing development of Ireland's national Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) framework and to provide a platform for stakeholders from all sectors to collaborate, share insights, and explore innovative solutions for achieving the SDGs. The theme for this year's Forum was the Development of the Third National Implementation Plan. The event featured:

- Expert presentations
- Breakout discussion sessions
- A panel discussion with sectoral representatives

The Forum was open to all, with a strong emphasis on accessibility and inclusivity to ensure broad and meaningful participation.





### Climate Action Week 2025 - October 13th to 19th

Clare County Council will host its inaugural Climate Action Week this October.

A series of events will be held across the county to promote awareness and engagement on climate-related issues. Activities will include:

- Sustainable Gardening Workshops
- A Biodiversity Workshop
- An Energy Café
- A Home Energy Fair
- A Public Film Screening
- Water Refill Stations launch event
- Gear Swap event with West Coast Surf Club

These events aim to support community participation in climate action and highlight practical steps individuals and households can take to reduce their environmental impact.

For further details and updates, please visit: <https://yoursay.clarecoco.ie/climate-action-plan>

### Clare County Council Climate Action Presentation at Shannon Chamber Sustainability Week

Clare County Council's Climate Action Coordinator delivered a captivating presentation during Sustainability Week, hosted by the Shannon Chamber of Commerce. The session highlighted the Council's collaborative approach to climate solutions, with a strong emphasis on community partnerships as a driving force for local impact. Key components of the Climate Action Plan were shared, including funding opportunities designed to empower grassroots initiatives and support community-led climate projects. The presentation also offered insights into the Council's own sustainability journey, showcasing its commitment to environmental leadership and long-term climate resilience.



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## RURAL WATER PROGRAMME

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

In July the Clare Rural Water Programme Office welcomed the Departments update in relation to the Ministers decision on group water scheme applications for funding for projects under the Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme 2024–2026. Clare County Council's Rural Water Department held a well-attended meeting on 15th September 2025 with Group Water Schemes (GWS) that received funding in the most recent announcement. The session was highly informative and aimed to support schemes in progressing to the next stage under Measure A6 – Taking-in-Charge of Group Water Schemes. Additional meetings with Group Schemes are being held as required.

Staff members from the Clare Rural Water office attended the annual National Federation Group Water Service Conference, held in the Clayton in Galway in September 2025. This was well attended by community leaders, volunteers, and water professionals from across the country. The Group Water Scheme Excellence Awards ceremony was one of the highlights of the annual Conference.

These awards shine a spotlight on the innovation, resilience and community spirit that define the vital group water sector. 35

flags were awarded across the four main categories which were presented by Christopher O Sullivan TD. Clare County Council would like to congratulate all winners of awards, especially the Clare Group Water Schemes Kilmaley - Inagh GWS and Dysart-Toonagh GWS.

Group Water Scheme Taking in Charge applications continue to be progressed by the Clare Rural Water Programme Office. We currently have one GWS taken in charge application submitted to Uisce Eireann for their take over consideration and we await their decision and will update the scheme on receipt of same.

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

Applications for Group Water Scheme annual subsidy which is available to fund operational costs of group water schemes providing water for domestic use continues to be processed by this office.

All applications under the 'Grant for Improvement Works to a Private Water Supply' under the Rural Water Programme continue to be processed by the Rural Water Programme Office, 57 applications have been received to date in 2025. Post works final inspections for 2024 works within the last 12 months are ongoing.

Applications under the Domestic Lead Remediation Grant Scheme continue to be processed by the Clare Rural Water Programme Office. The Domestic Lead Remediation Grant Scheme helps households with the costs of replacing lead piping or

related fittings located within the internal distribution system connected to a domestic water supply that serves a house. We are processing applications as we receive them.

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## SHANNON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

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### Clare FM Summer Tour broadcast from Sixmilebridge

The Shannon Municipal District was delighted to welcome the Morning Focus Clare FM radio team to Sixmilebridge. The popular and award-winning show was broadcast from the Sixmilebridge Hub and the Shannon Municipal District Leas Cathoirleach Michael Begley, Senior Executive Officer, Suzie Clifford, Senior Executive Engineer, Tom Mellett, Executive Engineer, John Strand, Supervisor, Pat Kearney and Rural & Community Development Officer, Conor Leydon were interviewed on the many projects and works that are currently being delivered across the district. The broadcast was an opportunity to inform the listeners of the vital work and important role that the Municipal District team plays in improving the quality of life for everyone in the district. There were a variety of interesting guests from the community, and we thank them all for their participation.



### Meetings with Shannon Community Partnership

A meeting was held between Shannon Municipal District staff and the Shannon Community Partnership. The basis of the meeting is to work closely with the Partnership on a number of projects in the Shannon area. Joint projects include- Culture Night, St Patrick's Day Parade, community need surveys and green maintenance.



### Presentation from An Garda Síochána

Cathaoirleach John Crowe welcomed Superintendent John Ryan and his colleagues to the September Meeting of the Shannon Municipal District. The presentation to the members covered a wide area of topics including the current garda operating model, crime statistics, CCTV and community engagement. The importance of reporting incidents of crime was highlighted to the members and Superintendent John Ryan encouraged all present to use the 999-telephone number to report incidents or relevant information to An Garda Síochána.



### Trip to Belfast

On the 23rd and 24th of September Councillors and staff visited Belfast. The purpose of the trip was to visit the Translink Glider which is a rapid transit bus system. Councillors and staff also witnessed cutting edge projects such as the Autonomous Bus in the Titanic Quarter. Mr Robin Totten of Translink kindly presented information on the Glider and escorted the group around Belfast over the two-day trip. Additionally, the group visited Sir Thomas & Lady Dixon Park as well as Keyes Belfast Park. The group drew inspiration from these parks for future Town and Village Renewal Park Projects.



- in Shannon Town and the Shannon Industrial Estate.
- Verge / hedge maintenance works is ongoing, with a focus in the Shannon Town area.
- Grass maintenance works for the Shannon Municipal District is ongoing.
- Tree maintenance works started in late September.
- An addition Local Improvement Works Scheme in Drumline started in mid-September.



Footpath refurbishment programme 2025 at Sli na Mara, Shannon.



Footpath refurbishment programme at Shannon Walk, Shannon Banks and new footpath Shannon Banks, Corbally.

### Works Underway

- Ongoing road maintenance throughout the Municipal District.
- Responding to complaints from the public, community groups and local representatives.
- New sections of footpath under construction in Shannon Banks and Sixmilebridge.
- Existing pedestrian crossings in Shannon Town have been upgraded during the month of September, with ramp installation works to be completed during October.
- Works to storm water pumps in Pump House 3 Drumgeely, Shannon, continued, with the overhaul of the electrical panels. This work will continue into October and November.
- Electrical works to upgrade the internal and external lights to the Pump House 6 Illumanagh, Shannon was completed.
- Works continued the installation of new road markings at various locations in the Municipal District.
- Drainage works continued to the open storm water drains



New internal and external lights to Storm Pump House Six, Shannon.



Accommodation works for a new pedestrian crossing in Bothar na Luachra, Shannon.



Commencement of the Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) in Cratloe.



Accommodation works for a new pedestrian crossing in Bothar na Luachra, Shannon.



Accommodation works for a new pedestrian crossing in Bothar na Luachra, Shannon.



Footpath works at Churchview Sixmilebridge.