



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

TUARASCÁIL MHÍOSÚIL ÓN PHRÍOMHFHEIDHMEANNACH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Eanáir / January
2026



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PEOPLE & CULTURE, CORPORATE SERVICES & GOVERNANCE, ICT & DIGITAL SERVICES

CORPORATE SERVICES & GOVERNANCE

Freedom of Information & Data Protection:

Previous years and 2025 to date - statistics to 17th December 2025

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Freedom of Information Internal Review Applications	6	13	8	4	5	8
Appeals handled by Information Commissioner	1	4	2	4	4	1
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	31

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 December 2025, including:

- Public Invited to Propose Suitable Land for New Home Builds
- Funding Allocated for Nine Community Projects in County Clare in CLÁR Announcement
- Clare Named European Volunteering Capital 2027

Social Media

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

In the period 1-15 September 2025, the Communications Office:

- Posted 37 times on Facebook, with total followers now 24,042.
- 37 Posts on Instagram - followers are now 5,398.

(Statistics accurate as of 15/12/2025)

PEOPLE & CULTURE

Work Area	Update	
Recruitment 	The following recruitment competitions were progressed during December: Eligibility Exercises & Desktop Shortlisting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary Senior Resident Engineer • Temporary Assistant Resident Engineer • Executive Facilities Manager • Acting Senior Executive Planner Interviews <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Warden (Sporadic Cover School) • Plant Operator A (Ennis) • Acting Assistant Chief Fire Officer • Branch Librarian • Acting Senior Executive Planner • Creative Places Shannon Co-Ordinator • Temporary Senior Resident Engineer 	The following competitions were advertised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professionally Qualified Social Worker • Permanent Lifeguard/Instructor (Ennis Leisure Complex) • I.S. Project Leader (GIS & Innovation) Grade VII • Librarian • Public Art Co-ordinator • Ganger • Heavy Vehicle Mechanic

Learning and Development



Training programmes / Webinars / Conferences/ Information Sessions held in December include:

- Financial Wellbeing Webinar - Managing Mortgages

Essential Skillz on-line Courses:

- Health & Safety Induction
- Slips, Trips & Falls

Health & Safety:

- Fire Warden Training
- 2-Day First Aid Refresher
- Manual Handling

Employee Wellbeing



- Health Screening Programme completed for all staff and Councillors
- To complete the programme of wellbeing for the year, a second Yoga Workshop was rolled out to staff
- Christmas Jumper Appeal for Cystic Fibrosis Charity took place successfully (see photo below).
- The December Wellbeing Focus updates on the Clare County Council Wellbeing Hub were focused on Financial Health.
- The Financial Wellbeing Programme featured a webinar about Managing Mortgages. One to one financial clinics are also available to all staff.

Unions



The People & Culture Department engages with Unions on various matters.



PLANNING, ECONOMIC, RURAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PLANNING PLACEMAKING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FORWARD PLANNING CONSERVATION AND BUILT HERITAGE

Community Monuments Fund (CMF)

The 2026 Community Monuments Fund (CMF) was announced by James Browne TD, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage on the 8th December 2025.

The 2026 Community Monuments Fund will invest in our valuable archaeological heritage and help the owners and custodians of archaeological monuments to safeguard them into the future for the benefit of communities and the public. The total funding available nationally for projects under Community Monuments Fund 2026 will be €7.5 million.

The core aims of the Community Monuments Fund are the conservation, maintenance, protection and presentation of archaeological monuments. It will:

- enable conservation works to be carried out on monuments which are deemed to be significant and in need of urgent support;
- build resilience in our monuments to enable them to withstand the effects of climate change;
- encourage access to monuments and improve their presentation.

The Community Monuments Fund has 3 Streams:

1. Stream 1 will offer grants up to €100,000 aimed at essential repairs and capital works for the conservation and repair of archaeological monuments.
2. Stream 2 will offer grants of up to €30,000 for development of Conservation Management Plans/Reports that are aimed at identifying measures for conservation of archaeological monuments and improving public access.
3. Stream 3 will offer grants of up to €30,000 for enhancement of access infrastructure and interpretation projects (including virtual/online) and small scale emergency conservation works at archaeological monuments.

The Community Monuments Fund provides funding for projects in relation to:

- Archaeological Monuments that are included in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) under the National Monuments Act 1930 (as amended)
- Archaeological Monuments that are identified in the Sites and Monuments Record compiled by the National Monuments Service.

Eligible projects will be drawn from the following categories:

- projects proposed by a Local Authority in relation to archaeological monuments in public ownership, where a clear heritage focus and community or public benefit has been demonstrated;
- projects proposed by a Local Authority on foot of applications from private applicants who are the owners or custodians

of relevant archaeological monuments where there is a tangible public benefit;

- projects with a clearly defined heritage focus and community or public benefit proposed directly to the Department by a State-funded organisation working in the heritage area.

Further details about the 2026 Community Monuments Fund are available on the council's website at <https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/planning/news/community-monuments-fund-2026.html>

The closing date for receipt of applications for the 2026 Community Monuments Fund to the Council is Friday 30th January 2026.

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	December 2025 up to & including 15/12/2025	Total (Valid) Year to date 2025
No. of Section 57 Declaration Requests received	1	23

HERITAGE

Community Monument Fund (CMF) 2026

The Community Monument Fund (CMF) has just been announced for 2026. Clare County Council hosted a Community Monument Fund workshop to inform and assist communities and individuals to make applications under the scheme. Presentations were made by National Monuments, the Clare and Galway County Community Archaeologist, as well as representatives from the Inch Ringfort Group and Killoo Medieval Church Restoration Group, as examples of successful CMF project in County Clare.

Link to the CMF fund <https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/planning/news/community-monuments-fund-2026.html>



Participants and speakers at the Community Monument Fund workshop



Speakers at the Community Monument Fund workshop including from L- R Keir McNamara, Inch Ringfort Group, Cllr. Tom O'Callaghan, Gerard Lynch, Killoo Medieval Church Restoration Group, Congella McGuire, County Clare Heritage Officer, Tori McMorran, Clare County Community Archaeologist, Bernie Doherty, Galway County Community Archaeologist, Tracy Collins, Archaeologist, National Monuments Services, and Michael Slattery, Killoo Medieval Church Restoration Group.

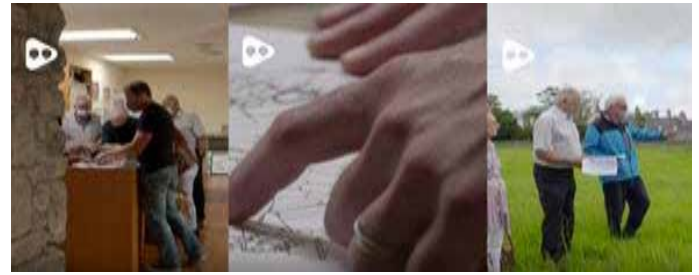
Minor Placenames Ireland Workshop

Brian Ó Raghallaigh presenting at the Clare County Council Minor Placenames Workshop and at the Clare County Council Chamber on the appropriate naming of new developments

Brian Ó Raghallaigh from DCU research team presented a Minor Placenames Workshop at Clare County Council. The workshop highlighted the variety and significance of minor placenames in Ireland. He demonstrated how using 'citizen science' approach to placenames can be safeguarded through their recording on the existing Meitheal Logainm website. Brian Ó Raghallaigh also presented on Placenames to the Planning Agents on the importance of the appropriate naming of new developments.



Brian Ó Raghallaigh is the author of this article Opinion: Taking more care in how we choose placenames could help to avoid renaming furores <https://scanner.topsec.com/?d=1293&r=show&u=https%3A%2F%2Fjrnl.ie%2F6892000&t=69d0a6d225c5b369d426e37d0b76466c70e0608a>



Reading the Local Landscape

The Mayor of Clare, Paul Murphy presented the students from Reading the Local Landscape course in Kilkee with their certificates at the awards ceremony showcase night in December. The students presented their heritage projects on the night; and the projects will be published on the Clare Heritage website Clareheritage.org.

€4.6 million in New Funding Opportunities from the Creative Ireland Programme

The Creative Ireland Programme have announced three new funding calls supporting creativity, connection and wellbeing across the island of Ireland.

1. Creative Health & Wellbeing in the Community, local authority partnerships with creative and community organisations grant call (with a Shared Island dimension)
2. Creative Communities on a Shared Island, local authority partnerships with creative and community organisations grant call
3. Creative Youth Nurture Fund grant call (with a Shared Island dimension)

These new funding opportunities advance Creative Ireland's mission to support inclusive, meaningful participation in creativity, strengthen communities, and nurture everyone's creative potential.

Closing Date: February 27, 2026 - 1pm

STRATEGIC INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK PLAN (SIFP) - FOR THE SHANNON ESTUARY



The Shannon Estuary announced as the location for the Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve Ireland



Gas Networks Ireland has selected Cahiracon on the northern shore of the Shannon Estuary as the location for Ireland's new Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve (SGER).

The Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve is a State-led project that will provide a temporary natural gas facility that can be used in the event of a disruption to Ireland's gas supplies.

The Government approved the delivery of the Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve in March, as it is critical for Ireland's energy security while the State continues to transition to renewable energy. The new gas reserve will be delivered in the form of a Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU), which will be owned and operated on behalf of the State by Gas Networks Ireland.



Mock up of Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU) to be located at Cahiracon (Source: GNI)

Initially, 14 possible coastal sites were considered as potential locations for the strategic gas emergency reserve. In recent months, Gas Networks Ireland's team of engineers and consultants undertook detailed site assessments at locations in Cork Harbour and the Shannon Estuary.

Each site was evaluated against four specific criteria - technical, environmental, financial and planning. Following this comprehensive multi-criteria and cost-benefit analysis plus its associated pipe route corridor, the site at Cahiracon was deemed to best meet the project needs.

The multi-acre site in Cahiracon will be developed to include a deep-water jetty for a floating storage regasification unit (FSRU), an onshore facility, and a new connection to the national gas network.

The SIFP Steering Group will engage with representatives from GNI in the new year to discuss the project, what it means for the Shannon Estuary and how it can work with GNI to further develop the project.

The site at Cahiracon is located within the Inishmurry/Cahiracon Strategic Development Location as identified within the Strategic Integrated Framework Plan for the Shannon Estuary for Marine Related Industry. Some of the key development considerations which led to the identification of this site were the 220kV lines

which runs in close proximity to the site with local electricity supplied up to 35kV, the Galway to Limerick high-pressure Natural Gas pipeline (70 bar pressure), public water supply together with its proximity to Foynes Port. There is also the proximity to Cahiracon pier which provides a well sheltered location at an existing pier offering direct access to a large pocket of well sheltered deep water and to the main navigation channel. Further, this site has policy support through its incorporation into the Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 as Strategic Development Location A with a key objective to safeguard the roles and functions of the Strategic Development Location as identified through the SIFP. The SIFP Steering Group will form a key stakeholder as this project develops further over the coming months and years with Clare County Council acting as lead authority.

Ireland needs a temporary strategic gas emergency reserve because it currently imports 80% of its natural gas via two interconnectors from Britain. Any interruption to that supply would have a severe impact on electricity and heating to homes and businesses. Gas currently provides about 30% of Ireland's primary energy needs and typically generates more than 40% of our electricity. At peak demand, gas can supply up to 80% of Ireland's electricity generation.

The Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve will help mitigate this risk, as it will provide an alternative gas supply in the form of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). The Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU), which is central to the project, is a specialist ship that stores LNG at very low temperatures and then converts it to natural gas when required.

This vessel will be docked at a jetty in Cahiracon and can deliver this natural gas to the existing gas network if required at any point. In the event of a major disruption to the current supply, the FSRU can be continuously re-supplied by sea until normal gas supplies are restored. FSRUs are a proven and safe technology which have been in use internationally for more than 20 years. There are currently more than 50 operating throughout the world.

The selection of this site is a significant milestone for this project as Gas Networks Ireland will now progress with further scoping and designs, which will further refine costs estimates to inform the final investment decision.

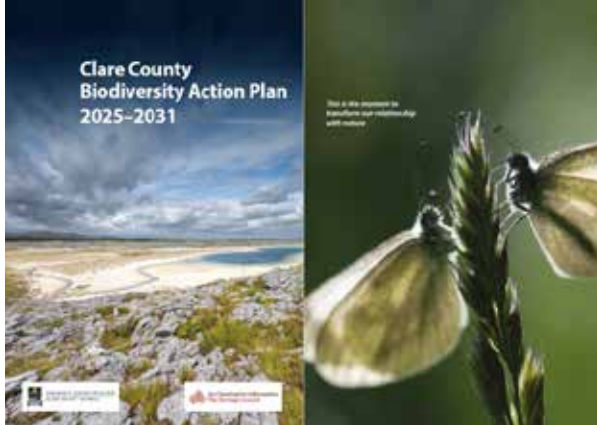
Natural gas is currently an essential back-up for intermittent renewable energy sources on our electricity system. When Ireland has progressed its transition to renewable energy sources and no longer faces a risk of disruption to gas supplies, the FSRU vessel can depart. The State-owned jetty and onshore facility at Cahiracon can then be repurposed for other uses in the future.

BIODIVERSITY

Clare County Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2031 Endorsed

The Clare County Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2031 was formally endorsed by the Elected Members of the Council on 8th of December 2025. The plan marks a significant step towards addressing the biodiversity crisis at a county wide level and strives to promote a whole-of-society approach in terms of protecting and conserving biodiversity. The plan provides a framework for biodiversity action over the next six years with the aim of

halting biodiversity loss in County Clare by 2031. The document comprises an overarching vision, five pillars, five overarching objectives and fifty-eight actions, and is underpinned by Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030 and aligns with the Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029. The plan underwent Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA).



The Clare County Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2031 will set a framework for biodiversity action over the next six years.

Publication of the NPWS Article 17 Reports: National Decline in Biodiversity

The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland report or more commonly referred to as the 'Article 17 reports' have been published by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The reports are carried out every six years and submitted to the European Commission to undertake surveillance of the condition of Annex I habitats and Annex II species located both inside and outside designated European Sites. The latest 2025 publication highlights alarming trends for biodiversity with 90% of habitats in 'Unfavourable' condition, 51% deteriorating, and only 9% improving, driven by pressures such as overgrazing, pollution, invasive species, drainage and development, highlighting a biodiversity crisis despite conservation efforts. The 9% of habitats improving is attributed to targeted conservation efforts and investment in nature conservation schemes. Full details of the reports can be viewed at the link: <https://www.npws.ie/publications/article-17-reports/article-17-reports-2025>



The Article 17 2025 publication highlights ongoing national declines in biodiversity.

Council Biodiversity Project: West Clare Cough Survey 2025

The West Clare Coastal Cough Survey was carried out along a 30km stretch of coastline extending from Kilkee to Loop Head Peninsula encompassing the breeding season of 2025. The project focused on the breeding distribution of coastal Cough, a species listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive and is supported by Clare County Council's Biodiversity Officer and Tourism Department. Birdwatch Ireland were commissioned to undertake the survey. The findings reveal that 19 pairs of Cough were confirmed nesting along the coastline in 2025. Of these, 16 pairs were successful, with 31 fledglings observed. All nests were located on natural sea cliffs, with none detected in nearby buildings. Cough is a species susceptible to pressures linked to changes in agricultural practices and human interference such as visitor numbers. The study serves as an important baseline to inform the distribution of Cough foraging and nest sites located along the coastline and to inform any future proposals and conservation management practices.



Cough is a coastal cliff nesting bird of conservation concern in County Clare distinguished by its red bill and legs.

Council Biodiversity Project: Recording Irish Mayfly Project 2025

In 2025, The Biodiversity Officer Network across 27 local authorities including Clare County Council supported the National Mayfly Survey of Ireland 2024 and 2025. Mayflies are a common part of the invertebrate communities of most aquatic habitats in Ireland. Most mayfly species are useful as biological indicators of river health as they respond to environmental stressors associated with a deterioration in water quality. The IUCN conservation status of mayfly in Ireland was last assessed in 2012. A total of 31 species have been detected during the course of the sampling, which represents 93% of the known species in Ireland. Six of the eight species with Red List status were recorded during the sampling. The project makes a substantial contribution to the knowledge of these species, with many detections outside of the previously known range of some species. Red listed species such as *Labiobaetis atrebatinus* have a rare distribution confined to a few counties including Clare.



Mayfly, a biological indicator of river health distinguished by its three tails.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The table below shows the number of planning applications processed during the month of December (to December 16th). Sixty six percent of planning applications received in this month were received by electronic means.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS	December (to Dec 16th)	2025 to date
No. of planning applications received	82	1193
No. of Planning Decisions made	54	1193
No. of decisions notified by An Coimisiún Pleanála	3	49
No. of pre-planning enquiries received	7	220
No. of Section 5 applications	6	105
No. of Section 97 Exemption Cert applications (in respect of Part V of the Planning & Dev Act 2000)	2	48
Submissions received regarding Compliance	18	327

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

December 2025 Statistics (24th November to 14th December) for January Meeting	2025 to date
New complaints received	12
New files opened	3
Files closed	8
Warning Letters issued	20
Enforcement Notice issued	15
Legal	0

MARITIME PLANNING – REQUESTS FOR OBSERVATIONS

The table below provides a summary of the number of Requests for Observations received from MARA (The Marine Area Regulatory Authority) with respect to applications for a Maritime Usage Licence application under the Map Act 2021. While the MAP Act does not provide a legislative basis for statutory consultation by MARA with public bodies upon receipt of maritime usage licence applications under Part 5 of the Act, in order to support the collaborative management of maritime usages, MARA issues Requests for Observations to the Planning Authorities on relevant maritime usage licence applications within the Coastal Planning Authorities remit.

Applicant	Proposed Activity	Licence Ref Number
Kilrush Maritime Ltd	The proposed Maritime Usage is part of a long-established programme of maintenance dredging in this area, which has been carried out periodically since the completion of Cappagh Pier in the mid 19th century	MUL250020
Gas Networks Ireland	Schedule 7, Paragraph 3: Marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation or in support of an application under Part XXI of the Act of 2000	MUL250010
Saoirse Wave Energy Ltd	Marine site investigations off the coast of Clare to facilitate the future design of the Wave Energy Site	MUL240054
Uisce Éireann	To conduct surveys to support a strategic modelling study of water currents within Galway Bay and the exposed coast extending northwest to Roundstone, County Galway and southwest to Loop Head Lighthouse, County Clare.	MUL240033
Electricity Supply Board (ESB)	ESB intends to undertake a survey campaign at the Moneypoint Generating Station site to inform the engineering design of the proposed Moneypoint Hub Project. The marine surveys will include geophysical, geotechnical, environmental, and met ocean surveys.	LIC230008

Planning Department / Planning Agents Liaison Engagement

On December 2nd the Planning Placemaking and Economic Development Department held a planning agents liaison group meeting, where private sector agents involved in preparing planning applications and submissions on the various plans and strategies were invited to attend a briefing by the senior team in Planning relating to pertinent planning matters including changes to planning legislation, trends in planning applications and enforcement cases. The briefing also set out the process for the Expressions of Interest process ran by Forward Planning which was open until the 19th December and advised of the forthcoming draft Variation to the Clare County Development Plan process. Building on the work of the recently established Placenames Committee the briefing concluded with a presentation by Dr Brian O Raghailagh, a lecturer in Dublin City University on the importance of placenames and included details of various resources open to the agents to assist them when proposing placenames for new developments.

RURAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Rialtas
na hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithé
Our Rural
Future



Funding totalling €596,885 has been approved for nine community projects in County Clare under the CLÁR 2025 Programme. This funding programme provides targeted investment in rural areas that have experienced significant population decline. The recent funding forms part of a national allocation announced by the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht and will support the improvement of local amenities, school facilities, sports clubs, and community infrastructure in rural areas across County Clare.

The funded projects demonstrate the commitment and ambition of local organisations in delivering high-quality community infrastructure.

The nine County Clare projects approved for funding under the CLÁR 2025 Programme are as follows:

- Dromindoora National School, Caher - Upgrade of pathway leading to astroturf facility: €58,500
- Ogonnelloe Hurling Club, Carrowcore - Renovation of community rooms: €65,000
- Cooraclare GAA, Cooraclare - Enhancement and extension of public walking track: €65,000
- Ennistymon Community School, Ennistymon - Installation of new MUGA: €100,000
- Kildysart Playground, Kildysart - Upgrade of community playground: €57,050
- Shannon Gaels GAA Club, Kilmurry McMahon - Upgrade of public toilet facilities: €27,000
- Coolmeen GAA, Kilrush - Upgrade of existing parking area and construction of new ball wall: €65,000
- St Joseph's Miltown Malbay GAA, Miltown Malbay - Car park upgrade: €59,335
- Bridge Celtic AFC & Bridgetown National School, Bridgetown - Development of new astroturf pitch: €100,000

and national support services, making help and guidance easily accessible when needed.

The Healthy Clare Health and Wellbeing Calendar is more than just a date-keeper - it's a daily reminder to prioritise wellbeing, connect with nature, and seek support when necessary. Whether you're looking for motivation, information, or simply a beautiful addition to your home or workplace, this calendar is an invaluable tool for 2026.

Copies are available free of charge across Clare in libraries, and Clare County Council offices.

Let's make 2026 a year of health, happiness, and community connection. Together, we can build a healthier Clare!



CLARE AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

Clare Leader Forum Conference

The Clare Age Friendly Programme was invited to participate in the Clare Leader Forum's National Conference on 3 December, marking the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, at the Temple Gate Hotel in Ennis. The occasion included a tribute to members of the disability movement who have passed away, and Dermot Hayes was presented with a lifetime recognition award for his activism.



The Clare Age Friendly Programme was delighted to be invited to the Older Persons' Christmas Party, hosted by the Community Policing Unit of An Garda Síochána on 3rd December in the Woodstock Hotel. The event was attended by residents from local nursing homes, day centres, and various older persons' groups.

HEALTHY CLARE

Healthy Clare Launches 2026 Health and Wellbeing Calendar

Healthy Clare is delighted to announce the launch of the 2026 Health and Wellbeing Calendar, a vibrant resource designed to inspire and support the people of County Clare in living healthier, happier lives throughout the year.

This beautifully designed calendar features stunning images of Clare's landscapes, celebrating the natural beauty that surrounds us. Each month includes key health and wellbeing dates, ensuring communities stay informed about national and local initiatives that promote physical and mental health.

Adding a unique cultural touch, the calendar showcases inspirational quotes in both Irish and English, encouraging positivity and mindfulness while embracing our heritage. Practicality is at its core, with essential contact details for local



Clare Older Peoples Council Mini Expo – Shannon

An engaging Information Afternoon, hosted by the Clare Older People's Council with the support of the Clare Age Friendly Programme, took place at the Shannon Springs Hotel on 9th December. The event featured a series of informative presentations and uplifting contributions from guest speakers, including Cillian Keane of Mental Health Ireland, James Ferns Fitness, Róisín Foudy on the Art of Sleep, and Michelle from Select Hotels, who provided an overview of group outing opportunities



UKRAINIAN SERVICES TEAM

Recent CSO figures show there was a slight reduction in the number of Temporary Protections granted nationally in the past month, currently standing at 1,100 with an average of 38 granted per day. There are currently 3,032 Ukrainian Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTPs) living in County Clare, this represents a reduction of 70 people compared to

previous figures. There are 897 people accommodated in 18 multi-occupancy facilities located throughout the County - this reflects a decrease of 8 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 and other private arrangements. To date our Matching & Relationship Manager has facilitated the accommodation of 458 people that were originally living in hotel and multi-occupancy facilities.

The Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration has introduced changes to their accommodation policy effective from 10th November 2025 for those newly arriving in the Country. Under the revised approach, anyone fleeing the war in Ukraine, who registers for temporary protection and is looking for State-provided accommodation in Ireland will be accommodated for a maximum of 30 days (previously 90 days). They will be provided with food, laundry and other services and supports in the Designated Accommodation Centres.

The revised approach to the accommodation offering has been adopted in order to respond to a recent large increase in the number of arrivals from Ukraine. This policy aims to ensure the State can continue to provide temporary accommodation to those most in need when they arrive.

This change will not affect people who have already commenced their stay under the 90-day Accommodation Policy, or those already availing of other State-supported accommodation.

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

Collaboration and Clinics held across the County

The LAIT team and Environment teams in partnership with Clare Sports Partnership, successfully completed a bike reuse initiative, with 91 bicycles being donated by the public.

Bikes were accepted at the Central Waste management facility in Inagh, with environment community wardens assisting some members of the public with transport to make donations. Bicycles were then sent to Landscape and Leisure Cycles, Kilrush, for safety checks and necessary repairs to ensure they were roadworthy, before being distributed across the county. The repairs were funded through the Department of Climate, Energy and Environment's Anti-Dumping Initiative 2025.



The LAIT team continue to deliver information and signposting sessions and Integration Support Clinics in International Protection centres and centres accommodating Ukrainian Beneficiaries of Temporary protection across the county. These sessions help residents access essential services and provide new community members with the information they need to support their integration into local communities.

To date in 2025, the LAIT team has delivered 125 Information Sessions and Integration Support Clinics in IPAS and BOTP accommodation centres, providing assistance to 704 attendees.

CLARE AWARDED EUROPEAN VOLUNTEERING CAPITAL 2027



County Clare has been awarded the title of European Volunteering Capital 2027 by the Centre of European Volunteering (CEV) at the European Volunteering Capital Winner announcement, in Barcelona.

Representatives of Clare Volunteer Centre and Clare County Council travelled to Barcelona on December 1st as a shortlisted candidate for the official announcement for the prestigious European Volunteering Capital 2027 title.

Clare now joins a distinguished list of previous European Volunteering Capitals including Barcelona, Lisbon, London, Berlin, and Gdansk. In 2017, Sligo became the first and only Irish location to be awarded the title.

The European Volunteering Capital Competition, launched in 2013 during the European Year of Citizens, is hosted by the Centre for European Volunteering (CEV). The European network comprises 60 organisations dedicated to the promotion of, and support for, volunteers and volunteering at European, national, and regional levels.



TOWN CENTRE FIRST

Public Consultation phase underway on Draft Kilrush Town Centre First Plan

Town Centre First introduces a new approach to planning for our towns - placing local communities, businesses, and stakeholders at the heart of reimagining and shaping their future. The aim is to create town centres that are vibrant, viable, and attractive places

to live, work, and visit.

On 4th December, Kilrush Town Team, supported by Clare County Council's Town Centre First Department, West Clare Municipal District elected members, and staff, hosted a drop-in public consultation at Kilrush Town Hall. Over 100 people attended the sessions, where they had the opportunity to meet Kilrush Town Team, Council staff and consultants; discuss the draft Plan; and share feedback on proposals designed to guide the town's regeneration.

The Draft Kilrush Town Centre First Plan sets out a shared vision for a thriving, vibrant, and sustainable Kilrush - shaped by the voices of residents, community groups, and businesses. It is built around six key themes: Inclusion, Climate & Biodiversity, Vibrancy, Heritage, Culture and Wellbeing.



If you have not yet provided feedback on the draft Plan, there is still an opportunity to do so until 15th January 2025 at 16:00 hrs. via:

Online at <https://yoursay.clarecoco.ie/kilrush-town-centre-first-plan>

or

In Person: Hard copies of the Draft Plan and environmental screening reports are available for inspection during normal opening hours at:

- West Clare Municipal District Office, Town Hall, Kilrush, Co. Clare, V15 XK70
- Kilrush Library, O'Gorman Street, Kilrush

Submissions and observations can be made up to **15th January 2026 at 16:00 hrs**

Lisdoonvarna Town Square - Project Development Measure:

Lisdoonvarna Town Team, Clare County Council and consultants, Grafton Architects, are advancing plans for a public realm design for Lisdoonvarna's Town Square. This design draws from two strategic documents - Tapping the Well and the Lisdoonvarna Heritage Plan and Design Guide.

Surveys have been completed, and public consultation is scheduled for January 2026. The project aims to deliver a high-quality, architecturally designed public realm space that will enhance the Town Square and create a welcoming focal point for the community.

A planning application is expected by summer 2026 following public consultation. Funding for construction has not yet been secured and will be sought on a competitive basis once planning consent is in place.

ENNIS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Christmas Festivities began in Ennis on November 27th with the official Switching on the Christmas Lights in the town by the Mayor of Ennis MD, Cllr. Mary Howard. This year 'Santa for Children's Health Foundation' was invited, accompanied by a large group of volunteers who fundraise for Temple St. Te Mayor was joined on stage by special guest Clare footballer Ikem Ugwuere, in addition to guests from Ukraine, Lithuania and the U.S. The Circus Ponies performed as the crowd filled the Abbey Street carpark from 5-7pm. This event is attracting larger audiences year on year, requiring a range of inputs to the event management plan. Ennis MD would like to thank Civil Defence, Fire Service and An Garda Siachana for their active participation in the planning and hosting of this family friendly annual event.



Ennis Street Fashion Show

The newly enhanced O'Connell Square provided the model venue for the two street fashion shows, hosted by the Holman Lee Agency on Saturday, December 13th. This event, showcased collections from over 35 Ennis stores including boutiques, jewellers, and sports shops. The street audience were dazzled by the fabulous clothing permutations, as well as appearances from Clare greats Dean Ryan & Mark McNerney. There was a very positive response from businesses as evidenced in their active participation, their online promotion of the event in advance and afterwards. The Mayor of Ennis MD highlighted the unique shopping opportunities available in Ennis and strongly encouraged those present to shop local.





Family Orienteering event

A yellow rain warning on Sunday, December 14th, did not deter 8 competitive teams from participating in Ennis' inaugural family orienteering event. EMD worked with Ollie's Tours who facilitated the event. Teams were given a guided tour of Ennis before being let loose to perform in a time sensitive scavenger hunt. There were a combination of emotions as teams sprinted back to base, soaked to the skin, comparing notes. A hot chocolate and cookie was well received by all participants before the official winners were declared. This family centred event will be repeated in 2026.



Pedestrianisation Survey - O'Connell St, Ennis

In early December Ennis MD launched a survey asking the public to have their say regarding the potential the pedestrianisation of O'Connell Street in Ennis. The survey was live on the Clare County Council website and closed on 4th January. Hard copies of the survey were also available in Áras Contae and Chláir and at the De Valera library. The outcome of the survey will inform the future plans for O'Connell St with a final decision to be made on 16th February 2026.



HAVE YOUR SAY

If you have used the Council's public consultation platform previously you will be asked to sign in, if not, you will be asked to register before completing the survey

<https://yoursay.clarecoco.ie/ennis-pedestrianisation-2026/surveys/ennis-pedestrianisationen>



Old Boys National School - Additional Parking

In December Ennis MD provided in excess of 50 temporary car parking spaces for the duration of the busy Christmas shopping period at the Old Boys National School on the Kilrush Road. Ennis MD prepared the site with works involving trimming trees and foliage, cleaning and repairing the surface, installation of line marking and lighting towers, and the securing of the site with fencing.



Co-Creating Works & Low Cost Safety Improvement Works

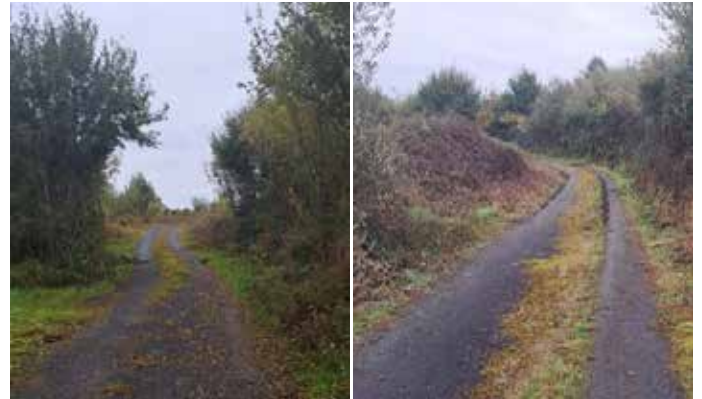
Ennis MD crews continued to work on the Co-Creating project throughout December. This project involves the tightening of junctions and the installation of raised pedestrian crossings throughout key locations in the town to improve accessibility and pedestrian safety. To date, over 30 junctions in Ennis have been upgraded under this scheme. The latest improvements were carried out during November include McNamara Park, Ennis, and also Beechwood and Orchard Drive estates in Clarecastle.

Ennis MD's Safety Improvement project in Barefield village has also been completed. These works include new and upgrade of pedestrian walkways to the village, new road makings, traffic calming measures in the form of speed ramps and improved crossing points to assist pedestrian users. This project will also prove very beneficial to pupils and teachers attending the nearby Barefield National School.



Hedge cutting and Overgrowth Removal Works

Hedge cutting and the cutting of overhanging trees were carried out this month on a number of junctions within Ennis Municipal District. These works were carried out to improve sightlines and improve visibility for vehicular and pedestrian users. Areas where hedge cutting was carried out include Island McGrath, Lynches Cross, Ballyduff Rd, Ballymacahill Rd and Ballylaniddy.



Traffic Light Upgrade Works – West County Clare Rd

Recent upgrade works to the traffic signals on the Clare Rd adjacent to the West County were completed this month. These works involved new electrical ducting infrastructure, which due to the invasive nature and excavations, involved nighttime works. The works also included a new traffic controller and new signal heads. All works including Temporary Traffic Management was carried out by Ennis MD.



HOUSING DELIVERY, INFRASTRUCTURE PROVISION & LAND ACTIVATION

HOUSING

The housing team have had an exceptionally busy year in 2025 with creation of circa 380 new tenancies through new build, acquisition, turnkey solutions, refurbishment of voids ,transfers, succession tenancies, of both Council and AHB properties. Our Capital team have exceeded delivery target for 2025, managing delivering of 180 new homes through our own build and AHB provision. Almost €4.5Million has been approved in Elderly/ Mobility and Disability grants to 600 households. 16 new homes have been provided through Affordable Housing Schemes in Ennis and Shannon.

2026 will bring further challenges as we strive to meet and exceed targets and recent restructuring within the Directorate along with increased focus on Cross Directorate teams is expected to support increased delivery of Social and Affordable stock while also facilitating and supporting private development countywide.

2026 will bring further challenges in other areas as we continue to support households dealing with Defective Concrete Blocks issues in their home while we are also dealing with significant

numbers of households who have received Notice of Termination for private rented dwellings.

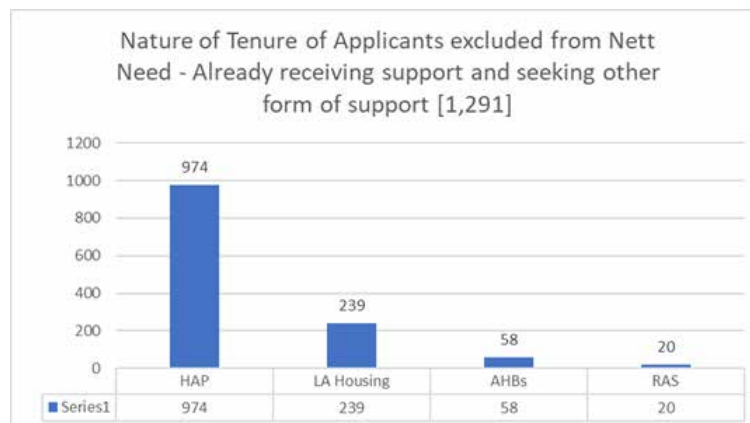
As in previous years we will continue to work with all relevant agencies and look forward to the continued support of the elected members as we overcome all challenges and continue to mee the needs of the county.

Social Housing Demand

The highest demand throughout the county remains for 1 and 2-bedroomed properties. There are 2,118 applicant households (78%) who have a requirement for this property type.

Current Housing need as of 15/12/2025

Total Households on List	2,700
Transfer Applicants (see below)	1,291
Net Need	1,406



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

Count of FIRST AREA OF CHOICE	BEDS APPROVED			
	1 and 2 beds	3 beds	4 and 5 beds	Total
ENNIS	948	172	68	1,188
SHANNON	169	37	15	221
CLARECASTLE	157	30	6	193
INAGH/ENNISTYMON/LAHINCH	108	19	7	134
KILRUSH	90	15	7	112
FEAKLE/SCARIFF/WHITEGATE	80	20	1	101
MEELICK/PARTEEN/WESTBURY	60	26	11	97
COROFIN/RUAN	68	15	1	84
MILTOWN MALBAY/MULLAGH/QUILTY	67	9	2	78
KILKEE/CROSS/CARRIGAHOLT	52	12	2	66
NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS	51	12	0	63
KILLALOE	44	13	2	59
COORACLARE/DOONBEG	37	8	6	51

LISDOONVARNA/BALLYVAUGHAN	40	9	2	51
SIXMILEBRIDGE	34	13	3	50
CLONLARA	25	11	1	37
TULLA/KILKISHEN/BROADFORD	25	7	0	32
KILDYSART/BALLYNACALLY	20	5	2	27
QUIN	19	4	2	25
KILMIHIL	9	3	2	14
KILMALEY	11	1	0	12
KILFENORA	4	1	0	5
	2,118	442	140	2,700

Newly Qualified Applicants



Housing Allocations

An Móinéar Gort Road, Ennis

The Allocation process in relation to the new social housing development located at An Móinéar Gort Road, Ennis is completed. Pre tenancy meetings were held in late November, and the new tenants received the keys to their new homes on 5th December last. This development comprises 20 units - 2 no 2 storey 4 bedroomed houses, 4 no 3 bedroomed 2 storey houses, 12 no 2 bedroomed 2 storey houses and 2 no 1 bedroomed bungalows. All of these units are in the process of being occupied and are home to 26 adult and 26 children, two households exited homeless emergency accommodation and an additional 7 households were prevented from entering homeless accommodation.



Kellie Marie McAllister completing her pre tenancy course with Catherine Breen from the Housing Allocations Team.



Ann O Dea from the Housing Allocations Team presenting Kevin Barry with the keys to his new home.

Parnell Street Ennis Development

Also completed is the allocation process for the new units located at Parnell Street, Ennis. These 20 units comprise 2 bedroomed town houses and 1 and 2 bedroomed apartments. Demand for one and two bedroomed properties throughout the county is extremely high and this can therefore lead to prolonged periods of waiting on the social housing list. In allocating these units five households exited homeless emergency accommodation and two households were prevented from entering homeless accommodation when they secured a home within this complex.

These units are located within the heart of Ennis town, adjacent to the pedestrianized section of Parnell Street and are in

close proximity to shops, gyms, swimming pool and many other recreational facilities. This development was a fantastic opportunity for single applicant households and couples who are qualified for social housing support to avail of a permanent home in the heart of a thriving town.



Aung Kyaw Thowai & Khyai Nue Marma completed their pre-tenancy meeting with Máirin Hill from the Housing Allocations Team.



Edward Ato Anderson receiving the keys to his new home from Ann O Dea from the Housing Allocations Team.



Tenant Purchase Incremental Scheme

There remains significant interest in the LA Tenant Purchase Incremental Scheme. We currently have 18 open cases at various stages of the process. The sale of 7 properties under the tenant purchase scheme completed in 2024. 12 properties have been sold to date in 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 will be reviewed early 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. Members of Clare County Council's Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative

Committee (LTACC) recently completed a training programme facilitated by Niall Crowley, an independent equality and human rights expert with extensive experience at both European and national level.

Niall's current work focuses on supporting public sector organisations to implement the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty. He also serves as the independent chair of the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee and of Galway City LTACC.

The programme was designed to respond to a shared interest among LTACC members in:

- Developing a shared understanding of the LTACC, its potential, and its purpose.
- Establishing an agreed culture for LTACC meetings that encourages effective collaboration and supports progress toward shared goals.

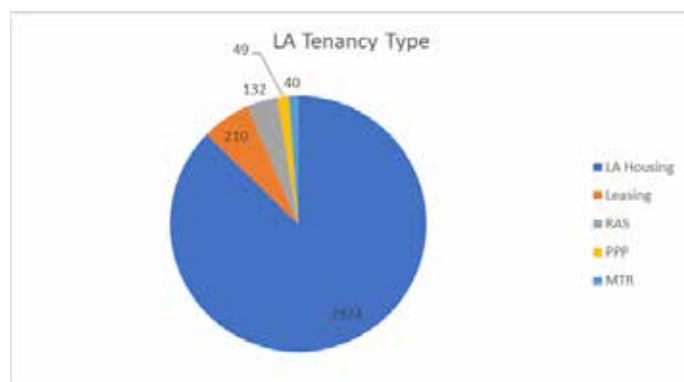
Following discussions across the two sessions, a framework document has been drafted. This document will be presented

at the LTACC meeting in January for adoption. Once agreed, it will provide the foundation for the committee's future work and ensure a clear, structured approach to advancing its objectives.

Housing Tenancies:

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

15th December, 2025			
MD	Allocated	Occupied	Total
Ennis MD	7	1,318	1,325
Killaloe MD	0	367	367
Shannon MD	1	754	755
West Clare MD	2	974	976
Grand Total	10	3,413	3,423



There are 133 RAS tenancies and 212 lease tenancies (126 long-term and 86 short-term leases). There are 974 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.

Vacant Stock	Ennis MD	West Clare MD	Shannon MD	Killaloe MD	Total
Traveller Accommodation	5	7	1	0	13
Projects	4	4	1	2	11
Casual vacancies	32	15	5	13	65
TOTAL	41	26	7	15	89

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. Listed hereunder are details of work being undertaken by the Estate Management team this year to date.

	Total year to date
Queries rec'd in relation to potential breaches of Tenancy	558
Referrals to TSS (including Tulsa)	38
Tenancy Notifications/Warnings issued	47
Abandonment Notices issued	7
Keys collected from Casual Vacancies	52
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.

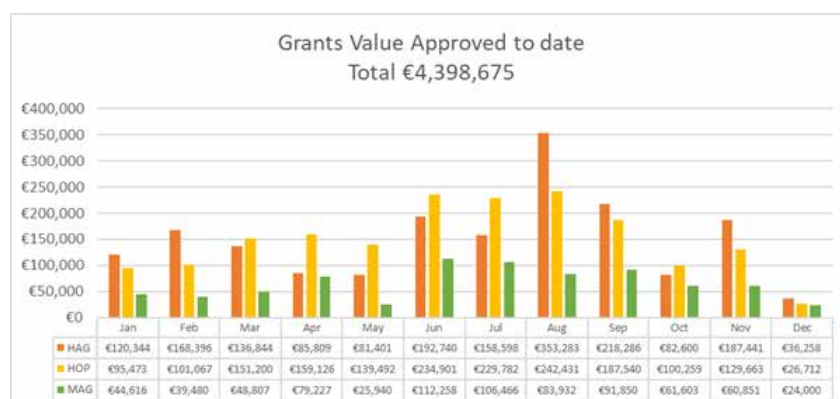
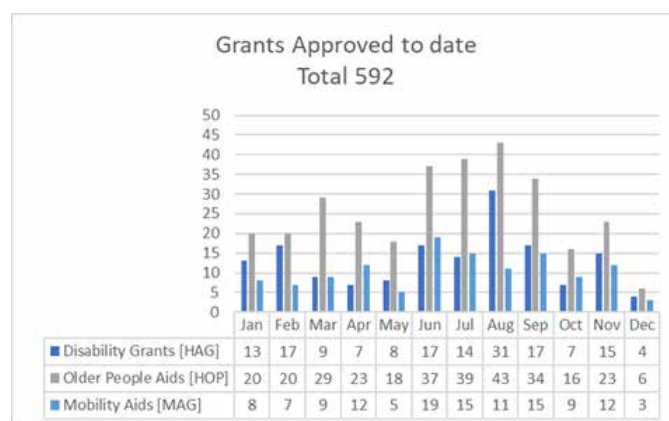
Private Rented inspections:

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 980 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 592 grants approved in 2025 and we have reached our current annual budget allocation. 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

There are currently 77 Local Authority Home Loans Approved in Principle. Updated figures are outlined as follows:

29 Applications
received to date in
2025

40 Applications
received in 2024

77 Local Authority
Loans Approved

5 Local Authority Loans
Drawn Down in 2022,
11 Drawn Down in
2023, 11 Drawn Down
in 2024 and 6 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.

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 Winter Bed Initiative, which provides ten extra beds (5 male and 5 female) on a 9pm to 9am basis has been operational since 13 November 2025. Clients ring in at 9am or after in the morning to book their bed for the night. The initiative is operating well.

The Mid-West Region held its rough sleeper count on the morning of Thursday 4th December. It was observed that there was evidence of 8 people sleeping rough in the County Clare areas covered in the count.

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. The team, along with Limerick City & County Council, are currently preparing their new Mid West Region Homeless Action Plan for

2026 to 2028, which will be brought the Housing SPC, and the elected members for review and adoption.

Emergency Accommodation Status as 5 December 2025

	Families	Adults	Dependents	Providers
Laurel Lodge	0	13	0	1
Laurel Lodge Winter Initiative		5		1 (not included in overall total)
Laurel Lodge (apts)	0	4	0	1
Cusack Lodge	4	5	11	1
Westbrook	0	17	0	1
Westbrook Winter Initiative		3		1 (not included in overall total)
Ashford Court	15	23	19	1
Clann Nua	0	12	0	1
EA Families	12	23	36	8
EA Individuals	0	21	0	8
TOTAL	31	126	66	22

Exits from Homeless Services:

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

During the period 7 November to 5 December 2025 the following exited from homelessness:

Moved to A.H.B Housing	2
Moved to Private Rented Housing	0
Moved to Temp. Accommodation	5
Admitted to hospital	0
Excluded	0
Residential Treatment	0
Tenancy LA	3
Returned to family/friends	0
Prevention Tenancies	0
Other	19

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 further potential developments in Tulla and Ennis and are currently processing a stage 2 application for 10 units in Shannon for submission to the DHLGH in the coming weeks.

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's 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 & planning application being developed. Engagement with adjacent landowners ongoing. CCC plan to hold a public consultation in February 2026 in advance of the Part 8 planning submission thereafter.
- **Feakle** - Needs assessment complete. Surveys complete & design team procured. CCC plan to hold a public consultation in March 2026 in advance of the Part 8 planning submission thereafter.

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 or by phone at 065-6846385, 065-6846468, or 065-6846309.

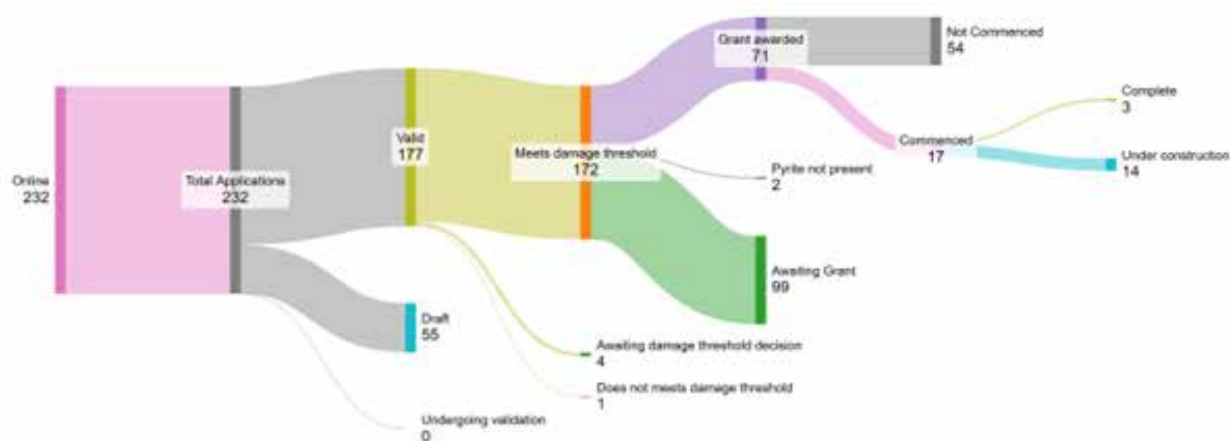
CCC administer and validate applications received through the online portal. CCC continue to engage with both the Housing Agency and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH), fulfilling all associated responsibilities.

To date, CCC have issued 71 Remedial Option Grants, with a total value of €23.1 million approx. An additional 99 applications are currently being processed by the Housing Agency, with remedial option grant amounts to follow. There are a further 55 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.

The first three properties affected by deleterious materials were completed by end of 2025. Applicants had their final grant payments issued on completion of the remediation works. This is an important milestone for the administration of the scheme since its commencement in July 2023.

DCB Application Flow Chart



CCC hosted a well-attended walk-in clinic on 28th November 2025 last, in Clare County Council HQ, 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.

CCC 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 is continuing to progress well with its direct build programme. Developments that are currently under construction include the Back Road development in Kilrush, the Doonbeg development, the Shallee Drive/Cloughleigh Road development in Ennis and the Moore Street, Kilrush development. Other housing capital schemes are at varying stages of design. The Gort Road housing development, which contained twenty housing units of mixed type, was delivered on 5th December 2025 and keys were handed to tenants shortly thereafter.



Completed Gort Road housing development



Progress on Back Road housing development



Progress on Doonbeg housing development



Progress on Shallee/Cloughleigh housing development

Approved Housing Bodies

The Approved Housing Body sector has made a major contribution to our housing delivery targets in 2025 with 82 turnkey units completed. The Housing Department provided the necessary support and advice and maintained close liaison with the AHBs concerned throughout the projects' cycle. During December, 5 units were delivered in Shannon by Cluid Housing Association. A further 4 units were delivered in Clonlara by Co-Operative Housing Ireland. These 9 units are very welcome having regard to the level of our housing need in each of these areas and will provide much welcomed homes for families on our housing waiting list.



Completed 5 units at Shannon by Cluid Housing Assoc.



Completed 4 units at Clonlara by Co-Operative Housing Ireland

HOUSING DELIVERY, INFRASTRUCTURE PROVISION & LAND ACTIVATION

SHIP Capital	No. Approved	Current Stage	Start Date	Completion Date
Garrán Cathaigh, Leadmore Kilrush	14	Completed - T. Key		2025
Main Street Clarecastle	7	Completed - T. Key		2025
Béal an Inbhir, Kilrush	18	Completed - T. Key		2025
Main Street Clarecastle	1	Complete		2025
Circular Road Ennistymon	4	Complete		2025
76 & 78 Parnell Street, Ennis	20	Completed - T. Key		2025
1b The Maples, Ennis	1	Completed - T. Key		2025
Gort Rd. Ennis	20	Completed		2025
38 St Patrick's Terrace, Kilrush	1	Under Review	Q3 2025	2026
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	Q1 2027
Drumcliff Rd, Ennis	26	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH.	-	-
R2 Lands Lisdoonvarna	25	Stage 1 approved by DHLGH	-	-
Subtotal	178			
Approved Housing Body Projects	No. of units approved	Current stage	Start Date	Completion Date
Acha Bhile, Lahinch Rd., Ennis (Cluid Hsg.Assoc) CALF Turnkey	10 (Phase 3)	Completed		2025
Cappahard, Ennis (Co-Operative Housing Ireland) CALF Turnkey	13 (Phase 2)	Completed		2025
Millbank, Roslevan, Ennis (Co-Operative Hsg. Ireland) CALF Turnkey	10 (Phase 2)	Completed		2025
Loughville, Ennis (Tuath Housing) CALF Turnkey	34	Completed		2025
Ballyminogue, Scarriff (Inis Housing) CALF Turnkey	5	Completed		2025
Abbeyville, Ennis (Banner Hsg. Ltd.) (CAS Turnkey)	1	Completed		2025
Radharc Doire, Shannon (Cluid Hsg. Assoc.) CALF Turnkey	5	Completed		2025
Church Road, Clonlara (Co-Operative Hsg. Ireland) CALF Turnkey	4	Completed		2025
Market Street, Ennis (Co-Operative Hsg. Ireland) CALF Turnkey	14	At construction stage	Q3 2023	Q1 2026
Acha Bhile, Ennis (Banner Hsg. Assoc.) CAS Turnkey	4	At construction stage	Q2 2025	Q1 2026

Radharc an Dun, Crusheen(Cluid Hsg. Assoc.) CALF Turnkey	4	At construction stage	Q4 2024	Q2 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	Updated costs with the Dept. for approval.	Q4 2025	Q4 2026
Bruachlan,Westbury (Co-operative Hsg. Ireland) CALF Const.	22	Contractor appointed	Q1 2026	Q4 2026
Subtotal	139			
Total	317			

Housing activation

Cross Directorate Group

A revised structure of the organisation came into effect on 6 October 2025. The revised structure includes a dedicated Housing Activation Unit (HAU). A dedicated Senior Executive Officer and Executive Architect are now in post.

The new HAU is focussing on:

- Identifying and addressing barriers to public infrastructure projects necessary for housing development;
- Engaging, and collaborating with, key stakeholders to ensure coordinated efforts in overcoming obstacles to housing supply and activation; and
- Finding solutions to issues that hinder the construction of new homes across the county.

One of the first deliverables of the Housing Activation Unit is the establishment of a cross-directorate Housing Activation Oversight Group, comprising key staff from across the organisation. The first meeting of the group took place on 15 December. Several work streams were discussed with actions arising. A meeting also took place to discuss several key projects in Ennis and the progression of these.

Development Engagement

The Expressions of Interest process being led by the planning department is providing landowners, developers and stakeholders the opportunity to submit details of lands that they would request to be zoned for residential uses ahead of the variation to the county development plan going on display.

In advance of the closing date of 19th December, meetings have taken place with several developers to provide any advice possible. Advice is provided on a without prejudice basis and it has been made clear that submission alone will not result in the zoning of the lands, that the submissions will need to be considered further.


Communications

A dedicated shared mailbox has now been set up for the team: housingactivation@clarecoco.ie

The team will highlight this to stakeholders and a discussion with the communications officer to discuss approach to comms going forward is due to take place.

CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY (PMO & GDO)

PMO

Doolin Pier	<p>Active engagement with department ongoing seeking assurance that support continues to be in place to progress building design, further to completion of Cross-directorate review in recent weeks. Separately, 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 is in place along this well-trafficked route.</p>
Ennis Public Realm Regeneration (Project B)	<p>The Ennis Public Realm Regeneration project has now achieved its most significant milestone with the completion of all remaining works phases, and the unveiling of the newly remodelled public spaces at and adjoining O'Connell Square. This is a moment to celebrate after 2 years of construction activity across 8 separate works phases in the town centre, and the refurbishment of sewers, sanitary main, and electrical infrastructure, in addition to the public realm works.</p> <p>The completion of these works brings to fruition the investment by Clare County Council and central government to make the town a more attractive location to visit and live, to enhance accessibility for all and to encourage continued and future investment. Narrow poorly accessible streetscapes have been replaced with shared surface pavements, while squares and civic spaces (O'Connell Square, Barrack Square, Cathedral) have been transformed through the incorporation of urban planting, street trees, shared space pavement, street lighting, and seating areas. Barrack Square and Old Barrack Street have been developed as a 'café quarter' which will deliver a higher-quality civic space.</p> <p>The newly remodelled O'Connell Square is now open for the first time, complete with a presentation which allows the public to truly appreciate this open space. The interactive street fountain has been commissioned, and this is already proving to be a focal point for young families and visitors alike.</p> <p>Traffic has been restored to High Street, Abbey Street and Bank Place. Bank Place is a newly paved boulevard, incorporating a wide tree-lined footpath, further improving opportunities for local traders, and ensuring that the visual impact of this part of the town centre is brought to its full potential.</p> <p>With the switch-on of the Christmas lights, there is now a continuous stretch of high-quality town centre public realm in place for the public to enjoy over what promises to be a busy Christmas trading period for our local traders. The Shared surface pavement of O'Connell Street will remain for the exclusive use of pedestrians over the Christmas period, as the Council undertakes a survey of trader and public views concerning its future use.</p> <p>The contractor, project team, and Clare County Council Resident Engineering staff have worked hard to assist citizens and traders during these works. We thank all stakeholders for their forbearance throughout the construction period. While there will be the need to complete some snagging works in early 2026, the Council is delighted to announce that these works are minor and will have little impact. Projects of this scale are challenging, but in the long term, the associated disruption is far outweighed by the transformative legacy which has been left for the long term benefit of Ennis. Our appreciation is noted and extended to Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, ESB Networks and Uisce Eireann, without whom this investment would not have been possible.</p>
	

Ennistymon Inner Relief Road and Bridge Crossing (Blake's Corner)	Once the judicial review process is fully concluded, Clare County Council will proceed to the next stages of the project which include detailed design, conclusion of the land acquisition process and planning for the construction phase.
Killaloe Bridge, Bypass & R494 Upgrade	<p>The date of Substantial Completion for the Project was 28th March 2025. The Project is now in the 12 Months Defects Liability Period. Some minor 'Wrap-Up' works have commenced and are ongoing.</p> <p>Project Snagging/De-snagging continues. Open NCRs (Non-Conformance Reports) almost closed out.</p> <p>Site compound de-mobilisation well advanced. As-Built records are collated. Project Safety File is ready for sharing. Landscape maintenance ongoing.</p> <p>Final Account discussions are ongoing.</p> <p>https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/capital-projects/roads-and-bridges/killaloe-bypass-shannon-bridge-crossing/</p>
Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme	Tenders for the Stage III third-party surveys will be issued in the new year. These include Site Investigations, Topographical, CCTV, manhole and Ground Penetration Radar surveys. Liaison with key utility providers for diversions and alterations is ongoing. Further correspondence to affected property owners will issue before the year end regarding the land acquisitions required to construct and operate the scheme. A full review of invasives will be carried out early next year.
Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF)	<p>Recruitment of the Site Supervisory team (Senior Resident Engineer & Assistant Resident Engineer) has begun, and interviews are scheduled to commence 16/12/25.</p> <p>Approval to award the contract has been received from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage subject to all lands being available. Positive discussions continue with regard the final land parcel acquisition.</p> <p>Utility diversion agreements are all now well progressed. A State Body Agreement is being finalised with Uisce Éireann who will fund the Water & Wastewater infrastructure element of the scheme.</p>
N19 Shannon Airport Access Road	<p>Our consultants Fehily Timoney & Co. have now issued the EIAR (Environmental Impact Assessment Report) and NIS (Natura Impact Statement) documentation for the Scheme to Clare County Council for review. The target remains that we will be submitting this project for Statutory Consent early Q1 2026, following TII approval.</p> <p>A briefing to MD councillors will be arranged early in the new year. Phase 5 (Enabling and Procurement) & Phase 6 (Construction) will progress thereafter which are subject to timely consents, no legal challenge, funding, etc. The construction contract is estimated to be in the region of 18 months in duration. As always, further information and associated literature on the project can be accessed via the scheme website www.shannonaccess.ie</p>
Remediation of sites containing ACM	Detailed design is complete, and Planning Application documents have been prepared in respect of the remediation of the subject sites. All sites continue to be routinely monitored and maintained as required by Council staff in accordance with approach as agreed with the EPA.
Shannon Town & Environs Flood Relief Scheme	<p>Scheme consultant RPS have completed the tasks included in the Value Engineering exercise. Due to availability, the presentation of the findings has been rescheduled to January.</p> <p>RPS issued responses to A Request for Further Information by Maritime Area Regulatory Authority in relation to the MAC (Maritime Area Consent) application.</p> <p>The Appropriate Assessment screening for the additional Site Investigation works has been issued to the steering group. CCC are continuing to liaise with the contractor to have the works carried out as early as possible next year.</p>
West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 1: Kilrush to Kilkee)	<p>Clare County Council is progressing the finalisation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and the Natura Impact Statement (NIS).</p> <p>As part of ongoing landowner engagement, we recently contacted all affected landowners along Section 1 of the scheme and invited them to meet with the Project Liaison Team and the Project Agronomist. Three consultation dates were held in November at the Kilrush MD Office and Kilkee Library. The purpose of these meetings was to review the first draft of the Greenway alignment, and the proposed accommodation works drawings, which have been developed following extensive engagement with landowners over the past number of years.</p> <p>A further consultation date has been scheduled for December. In addition, the Project Liaison Officers are available to meet individually with any landowner outside of these dates.</p>

General Design Office

Fáilte Ireland Platforms for Growth Facility Ballycuggaran	<p>Works are 90% complete. The project has been delayed as we await connection of the building to Uisce Eireann and ESB Networks services.</p> 
Cliffs of Moher Coastal Walk - ORIS Works	<p>Tender assessment is complete and contractor appointed, with works to commence by early January</p>
Tullyvarraga Hall	<p>Maintenance and repair work to roof and masonry. Contractor appointed 15/12/2025, works to start on site 12th Jan 2026</p>
Newmarket-on-Fergus Town & Village Renewal Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary Design agreed with Shannon MD • Detailed design drawings completed • Part 8 application anticipated in Q1 2026
Lees Road, Toilet Upgrade	<p>Works on site progressing. New floors installed, first fix M&E complete, new cubicles installed, new windows and doors installed. Works to be completed 22/12/2025.</p> 
Lees Road Coffee Hatch	<p>Preparation of tender drawings and documents ongoing.</p>
Ennistimon Hub Derelict Building Refurbishment, Monastery Lane	<p>The General Design Office have submitted a Commencement Notice to the Building Control Authority with a commencement date of 2nd January 2026. The development, when completed, will provide a new 2-storey office building, with construction to be completed in December 2026. Jada Projects Ltd. are the main contractors.</p> 
Tim Smythe Park	<p>Works complete and facility reopened</p> 

Lissycasey Burial Ground

Contractor appointed has started works. Gravel paths for access/ mini digger have been dug out and initial layer of stone installed. Formwork started for concrete plinths. Poor weather has affected progress. 4-6weeks program.



LAND ACTIVATION, DERELICT SITES & PROPERTY

This unit operates within the Housing Delivery, Infrastructure Provision and Land Activation Directorate and the key objective across all the elements of the unit is to bring together our resources with a strong ambition for delivery of increased activity on lands and activation of vacant and derelict properties throughout the County.

Working collaboratively across the other units in the Directorate with pooled resources and knowledge, it is intended to increase levels of activity and engagement to activate more properties for delivery of housing, both public and private.

Work towards ending dereliction and vacancy is a priority in the National Housing Plan 2025, with the re-use and regeneration of vacant and derelict properties in cities, towns and villages providing much needed housing and transforming and revitalizing communities, as summarised hereunder.



various reasons why the properties are in a derelict state. Where derelict properties are sold by the owner, the Derelict Sites Team engages promptly with the new owners to brief them 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.

Working collaboratively to tackle dereliction

The Derelict Sites Act 1990 confers powers on the local authority to carry out works that to a property if deemed necessary. A word of thanks to our Shannon MD colleagues for their assistance with initial improvement works to a very neglected and overgrown derelict property in the middle of a residential area in Shannon town. This collaborative approach to tackling dereliction is essential given the wider community implications.



DERELICT SITES

A significant effort to transform the many derelict properties across the County is underway with **306 derelict properties** being dealt with under the Derelict Sites Act 1990 as of the 16th December 2025. A further 20 properties have been identified for action in the last month. 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



Briefings held with each Municipal District in the County

Briefings were held across the MD's throughout the month of December. The elected members had an opportunity to meet with some of the staff and receive an update on the work that is ongoing. Tackling dereliction delivers huge benefits to a community and the active support of the Members is crucial to translating those benefits into reality. The main message of the briefings was to thank the Members for their ongoing, unwavering support and to reinforce the message that derelict properties will have to be brought back into use or face a 7% levy and/or CPO.

The table below provides a snapshot of the activity at 16 December 2025, figures for the year 2025 to date, with comparative figures for the full year 2024. There are 123 properties included in the Derelict Sites Register at 16th December 2025.

Derelict Sites	December 2025	Year to date 2025	Full Year 2024
No. of new files opened	8	76	35
No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued - Intention to enter site on Derelict Sites Register	4	74	36
No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued - Entry of site onto Derelict Sites Register	9	52	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	3	48	26
No. of Notices served to Compulsorily Purchase derelict sites (CPO) (see note below)	0	15	7
No of Vesting Orders signed	0	6	5

Compulsory Acquisition of Derelict Sites (CPO)

Key to property activation is the use of the Compulsory acquisition powers in the Derelict Sites Act 1990, where owners are not willing or unable to progress the refurbishment of a property. The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage has specifically referenced this in his speech for Budget 2026.

Clare County Council's Team is now quite active in the compulsory acquisition of derelict properties and this will continue in the year ahead to increase housing provision by bringing properties back into use or encouraging owners to bring them to market. The Table below sets out the status of CPOs commenced by the Derelict Sites Team in Clare County Council since 2022 to the current year. It is important to note that the CPO process can be lengthy and complex.

Year	No of CPOs commenced	Current Status
2022	7	3 - CPOs completed and property transferred to Housing for refurbishment works. Two of these are now completed and the other one is almost completed. 1 - was paused and is being re-commenced in 2025 1 - CPO completed and sold- New owner has commenced works 2 - works have commenced and CPO parked for now
2023	10	32 - At Vesting Stage and lodged in Tailte Éireann 1 - CPO completed and property was sold in December 2024 - Planning application for re-development in progress 2 - To be refurbished by Housing Department 2 - Title received from Tailte Éireann. One is recently sold and one is being prepared for sale. 1 - Options for the building are being assessed at present 1 - One was objected to and CPO process re-commenced in 2025.
2024	7	5 - 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	15	9 - At Vesting Stage and lodged with Tailte Éireann
		4- CPO process commenced and objection has been received and sent to An Comisiún Pleanála
		1 CPO paused as property is being sold by owner
		1 - Being refurbished by Housing Department

In addition, the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund has provided a revolving fund for the compulsory acquisition of derelict 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 and a further one is at the vesting stage. Actions taken on properties in the town of Ennis have resulted in a number of properties coming to market or being re-developed by the owners.

Derelict Sites Levy Update

It is the Government's intention that the Revenue Commissioners will assume responsibility for collecting the Derelict Sites Levy from 2027 onwards, and we await further guidance from the Department in this regard. In the meantime, the Council continues to:

- Value properties on the Derelict Sites Register.
- Issue notices of assessment of valuation.
- Bill the Derelict Sites Levy.
- Interest due on outstanding levies has been billed in December 2025

Levy Details: The levy is charged annually while a property remains on the Register and is calculated at **7% of the property's value per year**.

Valuation and Appeals Determination of valuations for properties on the Register is ongoing and notices of valuation have been issued to owners. While there have been four appeals regarding valuations in recent years, there is only one now awaiting decision by the Valuation Tribunal.

The Table below give the financial information on the Derelict sites levy at 16th December 2025.

Derelict Sites Levy	December 2025	Full Year 2025	Full Year 2024
No. of properties on which the levy was billed	0	31	9
Amount billed in respect of Derelict sites Levy	0	€349,510	€124,110
Amount collected	0	€44,859	€14,300
Number of properties on which valuations have been requested	8	62	26

Number of properties on which notices of Valuation have been issued to owners	0	39	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



It is planned that the Housing Activation measures in Budget 2026 and the new Housing Plan published by Government will include further measures for activation of vacant properties with a particular focus on "over-the-shop" properties. Details on the enhancements or changes to the current Vacant Property Refurbishment Scheme are awaited.

As of 9th December 2025, the value of grants approved by Clare County Council under the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant Scheme is €28.4 million (478 grant applications approved or 67% of all applications), with further approvals issuing each week.

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.

In November, the Team gave briefings to the elected Members at each of the Municipal District Meetings to provide information on the work being done, funding schemes and the new Housing Plan. Information Clinics are planned in early 2026 around the County.

The Grant is making a real difference in boosting the supply of rental properties and properties for permanent residence and is reducing vacancy and dereliction in our cities, towns, villages and rural countryside, while providing more housing options in the process.

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

Number and Value of Grants 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 approved
Kilrush LEA	172	€10.3 million	36%
Ennistymon LEA	93	€5.7 million	20%
Killaloe LEA	87	€5.14 million	18%
Ennis LEA	75	€4.22 million	15%
Shannon LEA	51	€3.0 million	11%
Grand Total	478	€26.41 million	100%

We continue to have high levels of enquiries and applications for the Grants and the total number of applications since the scheme was introduced in July 2022 is 710, with 213 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 €11.8 MILLION TO 200 PROPERTY OWNERS IN COUNTY CLARE WHO HAVE COMPLETED WORKS TO RETURN VACANT PROPERTIES TO USE - THAT MEANS THAT 40% OF ALL GRANTS APPROVED HAVE BEEN PAID OUT TO DATE.

Many owners 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. We await details of the Over-The-Shop Grant as announced in Budget 2026.
2. The breakdown of applications between urban and rural areas has remained consistent - 57% of applications are for rural areas of the county and 43% for properties in towns and villages.
3. To date, 70% of applications are for properties to be used as principal private residence (495 properties) and the balance of 30% are for long-term rental.
4. 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.

LAND ACTIVATION AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Property Transactions and Conveyancing

The Table below shows the number of property transactions completed by Property Management Unit up to mid-December, 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.

Under the new structures, all property transactions will now be co-ordinated by the Property Management Unit, which will include acquisitions, disposal, leases and licences.

Transaction type	December 2025	Year to date 2025	Full year 2024
Lease / Sub Lease of Property / Building	0	3	6
Licence to use property / building	1	8	14
Grazing Agreement for Lands	0	29	22
Deed of Transfer signed	0	15	9
Contract for Sale / acquisition signed	0	2	1
Deed of Right of Way / Wayleave signed	0	2	6
Deed of Rectification / Variation signed	0	1	4
Allotment Agreements signed	0	40	40

Property Management - Capital Projects

• Bellevue House, Harmony Row, Ennis

Works are completed on upgrading of this property, which is a protected structure. The works included an upgrade of Mechanical and Electrical services, which had not been done in 30 years. This project will also provide energy efficient measures, meeting room space, canteen and improved office space. Fit out now being planned and the property will be ready for occupation in January 2026.

TRANSPORTATION, CLIMATE ACTION, SPORTS & RECREATION, ENVIRONMENT & FIRE & BUILDING CONTROL

TRANSPORTATION

Roadworks Programme and Operations

The 2025 Roadworks Programme is completed 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:

Construction works are ongoing on the Tulla Rd between Hillcrest & Ballymacahill junction.

The works will include the construction of segregated cycle lanes, footpath widening, raised pedestrian crossings, bus stops, junction tightening and a raised tabletop junction at Ballymacahill Cross.



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

A Non-Statutory Public Consultation began on the 8th December 2025 and will run until the 16th January 2026. The public consultation is facilitated through the “Have Your Say Portal” on Clare County Councils website. An in-person Public Information Event was held on Thursday 11th December at the West County Hotel. The event was well attended with approx. 100 people visiting over two sessions. All feedback and comments will be compiled at the end of the consultation period. Adjustments may be required prior to issuing for Section 38 approval.



Ardnacrusha to Athlunkard Bridge:

The updated Option Selection Report was received in the second week of December. This is currently being reviewed by the Active Travel Office and will be issued to the NTA thereafter for approval.

Safe Routes to School program:

Gaelscoil Ennis

Consultants are preparing the options report for linking Corrovorrin and Fioruisce residential areas. Works carried out in December have delivered junction tightening and raised pedestrian crossings between the school and the Gort Rd as part of the Safer Routes to School Scheme.

Barefield National School

Works are substantially completed & will provide safer connectivity between Barefield Village and Barefield National School.



343 Bus Route Upgrade

A section 38 has been advertised for the construction of the following bus stops along the 343 bus route in Shannon, Sixmilebridge, & Newmarket on Fergus.

- Sixmilebridge Station NB
- Lufthansa Technik EB
- Lufthansa Technik WB
- Ministers Cross SB
- Shannon Town Hall
- Cronan Gardens EB
- Ballinoosky NB
- Ballinoosky SB
- Urlan More NB
- Urlan More SB
- Ministers Cross (NMF) NB
- Ministers Cross (NMF) SB
- Cappagh WB
- Cappagh EB
- Mount Ivers NB
- Mount Ivers SB

Plans and Particulars of the development are available for inspection on Clare County Councils website www.clarecoco.ie and at Shannon Municipal District Office, Town Hall, Bóthar Linne, Tullyglass, Shannon Co. Clare. Submissions or observations in relation to the proposals may be made before 4pm on Tuesday 30th December 2025.

350 Bus Route Upgrade Kilnamona Bustops

A section 38 was advertised for the construction of the 2 bus stops along the 350 bus route on the N85 at Kilnamona on 8th December. Plans and Particulars of the development are available for inspection on Clare County Councils website www.clarecoco.ie.

Submissions or observations in relation to the proposals may be made before 4pm on Monday 5th January 2026.

The Bus Stop Enhancement Programme:

The NTA has established a Bus Stop Enhancement Programme for Local Authorities which will provide 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 are engaging with the NTA in relation to the upgrading of bus stops throughout the county. This programme has funded the provision of bus stops in Mountshannon Village at St Caimins, in Shannon.


Public Lighting

Clare County Council through its Public Lighting Maintenance Contractor, Electric Skyline, continues to progress repairs on the public lighting network throughout the county's public lighting network. All works undertaken on public lighting networks are required to meet the ESNB's 'Minimum Requirements for Works on Public Lighting'. Where necessary upgrade works such as cabling works and / or additional civils works are required to bring a light or lights back into service, and to meet the ESNB's Minimum Requirements this may necessitate the attendance of the ESNB and subsequently shall result in extended repair times. Clare County Council continues to liaise with ESNB and Electric Skyline to expedite all repairs.

For the benefit of Councillors, public lighting faults can be reported via Local Authority Identification (<https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/roads-and-transport/road-maintenance-issues/report-a-broken-streetlight>). Under the PLEEP Project (Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project) retrofitting of existing public lighting continues in Clare with 2,670 Luminaires retrofitted to date to the 4th December. This represents 96% of the overall no of units to be retrofitted in Clare as part of the PLEEP Project. The unbundling of assets through the PLEEP retrofit programme has now concluded.

Clare County Council are working with the PLEEP Team and Electric Skyline to maximise output of both work crews.

Road Design Office

Project	Progress Update
Bridge Rehabilitation Programme	<p>Rehabilitation works have been completed at the following bridges funded by the 2025 Bridge Rehabilitation Grant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glendree - Killaloe MD • Raheen - Killaloe MD • Beakelly - Killaloe MD • Castlebank Ardnacrusa - Shannon MD • Gaurrus Bridgen - Ennis MD • Aughavaddy Bridge - Ennis MD • Broadford Bridge - Killaloe MD • Knockdonagh Bridge - Killaloe MD • Leaghort Bridge - Killaloe MD <p>Preparation for the 2026 programme is underway.</p>
Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads	<p>Low Cost Safety Schemes in 2025:</p> <p>The following safety improvement works were delivered under the 2025 Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads grant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L2016/L6044 Johnny Mac's Cross • L-3300, L-3301& L-3306 Cronan Junction Shannon • R352 Bodyke Tuamgraney • L-4174 & L4172 Claremount, Clarecastle - Lissane Junction • L5192 Ardnaculla Ennistymon • L-3110 Phayers Rd, Meelick • L-1041 East of Bealaclugga • R485 North of M18 Junction 9 @ Cullen • R-463-125 Ardcloney Bridge, Killaloe • R473 Kildysart National School <p>Safety improvement works at the L-4158 Barefield Village were funded by the NTA.</p> <p>Specific Improvement Ogonnelloe</p> <p>Construction work has been substantially completed on a safety improvement project in Ogonnelloe. The proposed permanent 50kph speed limit will be advertised for public consultation in accordance with Section 9 of the Road Traffic Act.</p> 

TII Safety Improvement

HD17 & other Safety Projects	N85 Clareabbey Roundabout
	A non-statutory public consultation is currently being facilitated through the “Have Your Say” portal in conjunction with the Limerick Road Cycle Scheme until 16th January.
	N68 Darragh Traffic Calming
	A draft Feasibility & Options report for traffic calming measures has been sent to TII for review.
	N67 Clohanes Junction Safety Improvement
	A Stage 1 Road Safety Audit will be completed Q1 2026.
	N67 Caherfeenick Junction Safety Improvement
	A Stage 1 Road Safety Audit will be completed in Q1 2026.
	N67 Doonbeg Pedestrian Crossing
	An updated design for the proposed junction improvements, bus stops and pedestrian crossing has been submitted to TII following the Stage 1 Road Safety Re-Audit.
	N67 Ballyvaughan Pedestrian Crossing
	A Pedestrian count has been completed.

Noise Action Plan

R5 Noise Action Plan Mapping	Work is ongoing with respect to planning the R5 Strategic Noise Mapping for the next action plan. The proposed R5 mapping extents are under review by Clare County Council. 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.
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Health and Safety

The Health and Safety team is completing its annual work programme for 2025. Key activities undertaken during the year included the ongoing review and update of ancillary safety statements, risk assessments, schedule of safety inspections, staff briefings and training, as well as internal audits.

An external NSAI surveillance audit assessing compliance with ISO 45001:2018 - the international standard for occupational health and safety management - was conducted from the 3rd to 5th December 2025 across the certified sections in Clare County Council. The auditor provided very positive feedback on the high level of compliance, resulting in a successful audit outcome.

CLIMATE ACTION

Pathfinder Partnership

Clare County Council, as Lead Authority in partnership with the local authorities of Limerick and Kerry, has entered into the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) National Building Retrofit Pathfinder Programme. Under this programme, public bodies receive matched funding for capital expenditure on key building assets to reduce emissions and improve energy efficiency to comply with nationally binding targets. For Clare County Council, our capital projects that have been included in this programme are Aras Contae an Chlair and Active Ennis Leisure Centre.

The Pre-appraisal stage has now concluded wherein a Funding Agreement with SEAI has been executed, Service Level Agreements signed with partnering local authorities, State Aid Assessments successfully passed, and Preliminary Business Case developed. Viable capital projects have now been defined and funding streams identified as we collectively move through Approval Gate 1 (AG1), in compliance with the requirements of Infrastructure Guidelines, to commence the Preliminary Design stage for both capital projects.

Community Climate Action Programme – Phase Two

As part of promoting the Community Climate Action Programme - Phase Two, the Climate Department attended nine community funding clinics across Clare from November 24th to December 4th. These clinics highlighted Phase Two of the programme and provided guidance to prospective applicants on preparing their submissions. The deadline for applications closed on December 16th for phase two of the programme.



Sports & Recreation

Active Ennis Mural

Active Ennis Leisure Complex has unveiled a vibrant new outdoor mural by artist Rachael McManus (Negative Space Collective). The artwork celebrates the diversity of users at the facility and reinforces its identity as an inclusive, welcoming space. Supported by Clare Arts Office and Creative Ireland, the project highlights the complex's commitment to community partnerships, creativity, and cultural engagement alongside health and wellbeing.



EV Charger Upgrade

A new electric vehicle (EV) charger was installed in December, replacing the outdated unit. The upgrade delivers faster charging speeds, improved efficiency, and a user-friendly interface, reinforcing our commitment to sustainability and supporting the transition to EVs for staff and visitors.



Healthy Clare Newsletter

In November we issued two info-graphs for the Healthy Clare Newsletter. The info-graphs gave information on "The Importance of supplementing with Vitamin D in the Winter" & "Benefits of 10,000 Steps a Day".



Green Flag Award - Tim Smythe Park & Lees Road

Tim Smythe Park and Lees Road have received the prestigious An Taisce International Green Flag Award, which recognises excellence in the management of publicly accessible green spaces. This non-profit international accreditation highlights our commitment to maintaining high standards in sustainability, accessibility, and community engagement across our parks.



SPORTS & RECREATION



Clare Sports Partnership (CSP) Highlights Monthly Walk

The December walk took place at Lough Avalla, Co. Clare, covering a 6KM loop through farmland and limestone landscapes. Eight participants attended.



Community Sports Hubs

Try A Sport - Give It A Go: Kilrush Moneypoint FC hosted a free soccer session with 20 children.

Beat The Streets Soccer Leagues: Held in Kilrush and Ennis, engaging 60 teenagers.

A four-week Strength & Conditioning programme for parents of St. Senan's NS pupils commenced in December with 10 active participants.



Women in Sport

Women on the Move continued in Sixmilebridge with 16 participants. Three swimming programmes in Ennis, Lahinch, and Shannon engaged 36 participants. The Women in Sports Leadership programme launched in December with 20 women enrolled.

Men on the Move

Programmes in Whitegate and Sixmilebridge continued, with 22 men participating.

Sports Inclusion

Inclusive gymnastics sessions ran throughout December with up to 80 children attending. The Primary School GAA inclusion programme engaged 12 children.

Older Adults

Weekly exercise classes attracted up to 300 participants. CSP is actively engaging with retirement groups countywide. The Try Pickleball programme with Clare Pickleball has 48 participants, including 30 older adults.

ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Awareness

Relove Fashion

St Joseph's Secondary School, Tulla, were awarded a new sewing machine as part of the Relove Fashion initiative by the Rediscovery Centre. This national sustainable fashion competition encourages young people from across Clare to design creative outfits using reused materials with mentoring and resources provided.



Water quality and catchment management

A Water Quality Matters campaign commenced in December to support farmers in protecting water quality.

A "Checklist Farm Leaflet", highlighting common issues found during inspections, and a "Post Inspection Leaflet", outlining next steps and ensuring open communication with inspectors, were designed in collaboration with the Scientific Services Team.

Our Water Quality Matters campaign this month was supported by a boosted social media post which achieved 13,600 views. It helped raise awareness around slurry spreading, reminding farmers of the closed period from 1st October to 15th January and encouraging the public to report any breaches to Clare County Council's Environment Section.



Green Christmas

A sustainable Christmas campaign was delivered during December as part of our ongoing drive to promote environmental awareness. The campaign featured newspaper advertisements, radio adverts, radio interview and a strong social media presence to reach a wide audience. Its central messages focused on responsible waste management, circular living, clean air and leave no trace.

Bicycle Reuse Initiative promotion

To highlight the success and benefits of the Bicycle Reuse Initiative, a media release was issued alongside a photo opportunity with pupils and teachers from Mullagh National School, Clare Sports Partnership and our Integration Team. More than 90 bicycles were donated by members of the public at the Central Waste Management Facility in Inagh. With funding from the Department of Climate, Energy and Environment (DCEE) Anti-Dumping Initiative, the bicycles were refurbished, safety-checked and redistributed to those in need, including pupils from Mullagh National School.

This project supports anti-dumping awareness efforts as well as the objectives of the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy by diverting reusable bicycles from the waste stream and extending their lifespan. It also demonstrates the benefits of collaboration in achieving both environmental and social benefits.



Water Enforcement and Laboratory Monitoring Scientific Services

The table below summarises the work of the scientific teams to date in 2025:

Water Monitoring & Enforcement Scientific Team	December 2025	Total to date 2025
Bathing Water Monitoring	0	212
Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant Inspections (NIP Plan)	54 (includes re-inspections)	151
Public queries processed regarding DWWTS grants	0	56
Monitoring Inspections of Section 4 licenced premises	5	83
Planning applications (Agriculture)	10	92
Planning applications (Domestic)		422
Planning applications Commercial	0	24
Planning applications (Forestry)	0	0
Pollution complaints received	5	141
Private Commercial Drinking Water Supplies	1	79
Private/Public Group Water Scheme supplies	0	230
Rivers	4	256
Farm Inspections (NAIP) (Routine Planned & Unplanned)	2	131

Waste Enforcement

Air Pollution Act (1987)

The Ennis Town Air Project continued in December, with air quality data being gathered and analysed, to get a more accurate representation of the air quality across the town. This project will continue to gather data into Q2 of 2026 to assist in determining the sources of pollution and will guide future actions to combat air pollution. There is good correlation with the additional monitors and the EPA Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station. This will assist in developing local knowledge of the areas for focus in 2026.

Air Pollution Act (1987) (Solid Fuels) Regulations 2022: Retailer Inspections

Under the Air Pollution Act (1987) (Solid Fuels) Regulations 2022, 125 inspections of Solid Fuel Retailers were conducted to check that they were selling approved fuel and to ensure accurate records are maintained.

Inspections of Permitted and Unpermitted Sites under the Waste Management (Facility Permit and Registration) Regulations S.I No. 821 of 2007, as amended

Routine inspections of permitted sites were carried out by the Waste Enforcement team in December. Inspections of unauthorised facilities were also carried out in response to complaints. Follow-up enforcement action is ongoing in the case of unpermitted sites.

One joint inspection took place with The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in response to a waste complaint.

Waste Enforcement Complaints Investigation

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

Waste Enforcement Complaints	December 2025
Litter	8
Dog Fouling	2
Waste Presentation	2
Dumping	41
Waste complaints (total)	78

Waste Enforcement Inspections	December 2025
Cert of Registration	1
Waste Facility Permits	1
Unauthorised Sites	3

Waste Management

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

Civic Amenity Site Waste Streams (KG)	
Item	November 2025 (latest Data)
Bulky items	62,680
Cardboard	25,120
Dry Recyclable	376
Paper	14,420
Green Waste	45,620
Mattresses	5,860
Municipal Waste	116,581
Plastic Packaging	3,780
Timber	111,680

ISO 45011 accreditation following the Surveillance Audit. The auditor highlighted the very high standard of Health & Safety that continues to be demonstrated in the Fire Service in Clare.

Fire & Building Control Section Main Activities	Nov 2025	Dec 2025 (Up to 16/11/25)	Year to Date 2025
Number of Emergency Calls Attended	120	48	1340
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Received	8	0	104
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Granted	9	1	104
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Invalidated	0	0	2
Number of Disability Access Certificates Received	5	3	69
Number of Disability Access Certificates Granted	2	2	65
Number of Commencement Notices Received	28	15	384
Number of Dangerous Structures/Places Complaints	0	0	5

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

CLARE CIVIL DEFENCE

Operational Duties

Clare Civil Defence Volunteers provided medical support at the following events including Turning on of the Christmas Lights in Ennis and Shannon. They also attended the Young at Heart Christmas Party held at the Woodstock Hotel, Ennis.



FIRE & BUILDING CONTROL

Training Courses

Clare County Fire & Rescue Service personnel underwent a number of training courses during December including Emergency Services Driving Standard Training and Theory Tests for a number of fire service personnel throughout the County. Winch and HiAb training was held in Ennis Fire Station.

Safety Management System Audit

Clare County Fire & Rescue Service took part in a three day Clare County Council NSAI surveillance audit to the ISO 45011 Standard (Health & Safety) on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of December. The audit included a Management Review together with an onsite visit to Kilrush Fire Station. Clare County Council retained the

Member Training and Professional Development

16 new recruits completed the Fire Module which included “A Fire in the Home” presentation, tour of Ennis Fire Station and Fire Extinguisher training.

Year Two volunteers completed First Aid Responder training.

Training sessions continue weekly for all volunteers. On average, up to 50 volunteers attend and receive instruction from Volunteer Instructors, the Assistant Civil Defence Officer, and the Civil Defence Officer.

Health and Safety

As part of Clare County Council’s ISO 45001 Surveillance Audit, the auditor evaluated the Civil Defence Safety Management System at their Headquarters. Three Civil Defence volunteers attended same providing a unique insight into the Health & Safety Management System. The volunteers demonstrated a clear

understanding of the system. The presence of the volunteers at the audit was very much welcomed by the NSAI Auditor.

Missing Person Search Operations

Clare Civil Defence volunteers are currently assisting An Garda Síochána with two ongoing missing person search operations along the coast.

Clare Civil Defence John Cuddihy Volunteer of the Year Award 2025

Volunteer Mr. Jack O’Dea has been honoured with the Clare Civil Defence John Cuddihy Volunteer of the Year Award for 2025. It is a well deserved recognition of his incredible dedication and hard work throughout the year and highlighted the positive impact he has had on his community. Jack is an inspiring example of volunteerism.



RURAL WATER SCHEMES

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.

Following the Departments update this Summer in relation to the Ministers decision on group water scheme applications for funding under the Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme (MARWP) 2024–2026 our office is continuing to actively engage with each scheme. This ongoing collaboration reflects our commitment to providing consistent guidance and support throughout all funding MARWP 2024-2026 measures. Many GWS are progressing with these projects, with some having completed the procurement process for the appointment of a Consultant Engineer to act on the schemes behalf to advance the works, namely Measure A4 - Improvement of Infrastructure including Water Conservation and Measure A6 - Taking in Charge.

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 has been working closely with Group Water Schemes to evaluate the need for emergency works and to apply to the Department for exceptional urgent capital funding.

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, 78 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.

WEST CLARE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT - ENNISTYMON ELECTORAL AREA

Drainage Works at Hospital Cross, Ennistymon

Drainage improvement works at Hospital Cross, Ennistymon progressed as planned during the reporting period, addressing long-standing surface water issues and enhancing road safety in a high-traffic area. The project is a key element in mitigating flood risk and improving infrastructure resilience ahead of the winter season.



Dune Protection Works at Fanore Beach - Completed

The dune protection works at Fanore Beach have been successfully completed, focusing on preventing vehicle access and reducing footfall on sensitive dune areas. These measures are designed to protect the fragile dune ecosystem from damage caused by parking and uncontrolled pedestrian movement, ensuring long-term preservation of this important natural habitat.



Beach Clean-Up at Fanore Beach

A comprehensive beach clean-up was undertaken at Fanore Beach during the reporting period by our permanent beach operatives. This proactive maintenance ensures the beach remains safe, clean, and welcoming for visitors while protecting the local environment and marine ecosystem.



Liscannor Village Footpath Upgrades

Footpath improvement works have been completed in Liscannor Village, aimed at enhancing pedestrian safety, accessibility, and overall streetscape quality.



Lahinch Playground Upgrade - ongoing

Improvement works at Lahinch Playground are progressing well, with the facility scheduled to reopen by the end of January. The project aims to enhance play equipment, safety features, and overall accessibility, ensuring a modern and inclusive recreational space for families and visitors. Works have been managed to minimise disruption, and the upgrade reflects the Council's commitment to community amenities and quality public spaces.



WEST CLARE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT - KILRUSH ELECTORAL AREA

Large scale Drainage Works Alva, Cree

Significant drainage works have been carried out to alleviate the flooding issue on the R483 between Cooraclare and Cree.



Footpath works

Footpath replacement and repairs are ongoing throughout the MD



Footpath replacement works, Kilkee.

Coastal Protection Works, near Doonbeg

West Clare MD repaired some defects to the Sea Wall adjacent to the L-2028 / Doonbeg Bay / Rhynagonnaught Strand.



Erection of pedestrian gates on trail to Lissycasey GeoPark.

As a road and traffic safety measure, West Clare MD recently erected 2 sets of pedestrian gates along the trail leading to the Geopark at Lissycasey.



Set of pedestrian gates.

Local Authority Marine Infrastructure Scheme 2025 (LAMIS)

West Clare MD continued works to piers and slipways as part of LAMIS, which is funded by the Department of Agriculture and the Marine in Cappagh, Carrigaholt, Doonmore, Kildysart, Knock and Seafeld.



LAMIS 2025 - Knock Pier.

Verge reinstatement following the overturning of a truck on the N68.

West Clare MD recently carried out verge repairs along the N68 following the overturning of a delivery lorry.



Verge reinstatement along N68 at Crown, Lissycasey.

Europarc Forum meeting Michael Cusack Centre.



The Geopark attended the inaugural Europarc forum meeting at the Michael Cusack Centre with representatives from a number of local stakeholders. Europarc is a network of European protected areas.

Burren Winterage and Food Fayre Festival.



The Geopark was represented at the Burren Winterage and Food Fayre Festival at Irish Natural Stone, Bouleevin. The event, a collaboration between Burrenbeo, Burren Ecotourism Network and the Geopark, attracted hundreds of participants to take part in the cattle drive and sample all the local food producers.

Annual Taste the Burren Long Table event



The Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark supported the Taste the Burren annual Long Table event which promotes locally produced food. This year's event was cooked by Ryan Fitzpatrick of Wild Catering.

Irish UNESCO Global Geoparks forum hosted in Doolin

The annual Irish UNESCO Global Geoparks forum was hosted by the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark

on 26th/27th November. This event brought together representatives of all five Irish Geoparks and featured a public forum with presentations from leading Irish experts on Natural Capital Accounting - a system that aims to put an accounting value on maintaining our ecosystems. The meeting was opened by Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council Cllr. Paul Murphy and guests included Dr. Koen Verbruggen, director of Geological Survey Ireland, Dr. Marie Cowen, director of Geological Survey Northern Ireland and Agathe Hutchinson, attaché for UNESCO at the Permanent Representation of Ireland in Paris and Siobhan McNulty (Director of Service Tourism, Festivals, Libraries and Cultural Services).



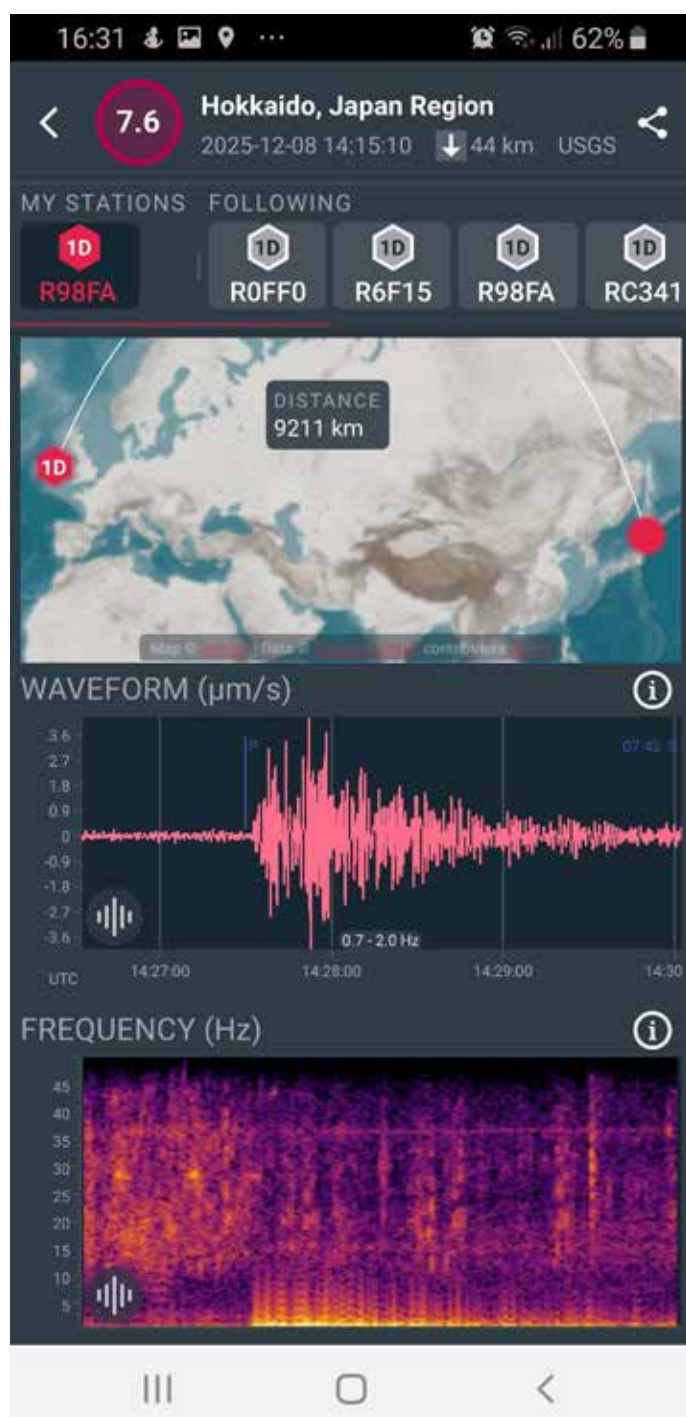
Fieldtrip for Burrenbeo



Dr. Eamon Doyle, geologist for the Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark led a fieldtrip at Doolin for members of Burrenbeo who braved the winter weather to learn about the geological history of the area, including karst process, fossils, past tectonic activity, the formation of limestone and coastal erosion.

Major Earthquake in Japan detected by Geopark seismometer

A 7.6 magnitude earthquake in Japan was detected by the Geopark seismometer in Ennistymon Area Office. The device is part of a network of seismometers that monitor seismic events globally supported by the Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies and Geological Survey Ireland through their Community Seismometer Programme, known as QuakeShake. Dr. Doyle, geologist for the Burren Geopark, attended the annual meeting of the Programme as part of the steering committee in December.



CULTURAL SERVICES - LIBRARY, ARTS, MUSEUM, LOCAL STUDIES & ARCHIVES

Clare Libraries

The Brushstrokes for Dylan Exhibition continued on display in DeValera Library, it is a powerful tribute to artist Edelle Costelloe's son with sales of the works going to causes close to Dylan's heart - the homeless and the Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust. There was a well attended talk on Jane Austen delivered by the Branch Librarian from Kildysart Library. This has resulted in the setting up of a Bronte group who will meet in Kikee library on the second Wednesday of every month starting on 10th December. On 20th

December, there was a display of Nativity cribs in the library in Ennis as part of a charity event – hundreds of unique nativity scenes from around the world were on display for the day with proceeds going to the Crumlin Children's hospital.

Library Activities in Figures

Total number of in branch events	289
Total audiences at in branch events	2,897
Total number of outreach events	11
Total audiences at outreach events	175
Total number of deliveries to homes	9
Total number of class novels issued	10

IT classes and services

Smart phone classes took place in De Valera and Sixmilebridge libraries. There were 1,149 IT related queries this month. The majority of queries relate to printing, the use of borrowbox and the library app.

Online Resources usage - the reading of e-magazines and e-newspapers continues to be one of the most used online resources in Clare Libraries followed by use of the Borrow Box app for audio books.

2,076 E-Books	4,305 E-Audiobooks	19,927 ePress (magazines & newspapers)
379 Online Courses	78 Transparent Languages	

Events, Marketing & Social media

A meeting took place with Hannah Delaney, development officer, Age Action to plan 1-to-1 Digital Literacy Sessions. It is anticipated that these will be rolled out in 2026 with a focus on older adults and those with limited tech skills.

A dedicated social media team was setup to make content more engaging across platforms and support regional content creation. The library website was updated with "Inis Dom", the Irish Language initiative for Ennis. Library staff visited Clare's COPD support group, outlining the services provided by the library. Photo props and frames for events were designed and circulated to all branches for future events. Staff in Ennistymon Library hosted a group from The Hub Ennistymon. Staff gave a talk on the library's online service, including the library app and BorrowBox.

Library Social Media activity

	Total Followers	New Followers	Post Reach/ Impressions	Post Likes/ Reactions
	8,825	35	69,023	963
	3,032	34	9,409	328

Children's Services and Right to Read

Children's Services hosted "Family Time At Your Library" a Right to Read literacy programme. This programme runs throughout December and consists of a variety of family friendly storytimes, craft sessions, movie showings and workshops. Highlights included "Monkey Music" with Cara Kahn, a sensory music session for children with additional needs and a special screening of animated shorts with Magpie Media.

Creative Ireland Programme



December was a busy month for the Creative Ireland programme. The Christmas season got off to a great start with Christmas wreathmaking workshops in several libraries. Attendees designed and created a beautiful bespoke wreath under the guidance of Liza from "Moss and Mushroom". These events were supported by Creative Ireland funding. One of the key highlights of December was the final gathering of the "Birds of a Feather" project group which took place in Athlone on 11th December with 60 members in attendance. The impact report "Stories from a Shared Island" was launched with the underlying belief that projects such as this become a living model of how creativity can shape dialogue, nurture empathy, and lay the groundwork for a shared future across the island of Ireland. The project had lasted 2 years with €250,000 of funding and the impact report has now been advanced to the Dept of an Taoiseach.

Healthy Ireland

Two health and wellbeing activities took place in December a chair yoga class in Sixmilebridge Library, which was attended by 10 people and delivered by Colette Nagle. The "5 Ways to Wellbeing" workshop took place in Kilkee Library. This workshop was delivered by Cillian Keane from Mental Health Ireland.

Local Studies and Archives

Clare Local Studies library has acquired a collection of manuscripts relating to the Woulfe family of Tiermaclane (Parish of Clarecastle & Ballyea). This family included the scientist and alchemist Peter Woulfe, & the noted jurist William Woulfe. The Archive section has also received a donation of records from Teagasc. These include many ledgers and logbooks relating to the history of

farming in Clare, from the 1930's to the 1990's. Local Studies and Archives have finished cataloguing the John Holohan Papers, now available for research by contacting the archivist. A draft listing of the Vandeleur Papers, donated earlier this year, has also been prepared.

An article on the Porte House Papers written by County Archivist Ciara Fahy will appear in History Ireland in mid to late December 2025. Work has begun on cataloguing the Glynn Papers. The archivist took part in the "Inis Dom" campaign. Staff from the Local Studies Centre delivered several talks, including sessions with the Rice College History Class and the Probus Women's Group.



Clare Museum



Clare Museum put a call out to the public for vintage Christmas cards to be loaned to the Museum for a temporary Vintage Christmas cards Exhibition, to run throughout the Christmas season.

Seven exhibition cases were filled with the museum's own collection of vintage cards, from the Georgina Frost collection, and the donated cards, along with the stories behind them, attracting more visitors to the Museum throughout December. Following the success and reach of the callout for vintage Christmas cards an online showcase of these cards was also created, resulting in an increase in website visits and raising the profile of the museum.

Clare Museum organised 6 separate Christmas Card-Making Workshops to coincide with the Vintage Christmas Cards exhibition running throughout the Christmas season. The workshops were facilitated by artists Rachel Macmanus and Aideen Sweeney, supported by the Museum's Education Officer. The workshops catered to children, over 4 Saturdays. A total of 75 children took part altogether.

The Curator and Education Officer visited a TY group in Shannon Comprehensive School to give a discovery session on the ARTiculation competition run by museums, which they are interested in taking part in next year. Clare Museum's engagement on Facebook increased by 61% and by 53% on Instagram between November & December. A blog post on Edwardian Christmas cards in the Georgina Frost Collection was posted on the museum website.

Clare Arts Office

Clare Arts Office held two Arts in Focus sessions on Clare FM. Staff attended meetings with Visual Artists Ireland, TUS (School of Art & Design) and Music Generation as well as with one artist and arranged a bursary application webinar with Visual Artists Ireland. Staff attended the annual Music Generation Concert, a Creative Towns Seminar and a launch at the Irish Aerial Centre. Staff sat on 4 awards panels for Limerick City and County Council.

Three film screenings, including two Christmas movies for children, took place in December in Cultúrlann Sweeney, Kilkee along with a conference and two Christmas school shows.

Súil's inaugural 'Annual Open' exhibition, featuring over 150 artworks, will end on December 19th, and has welcomed almost one thousand visitors. Feedback from visitors about the Annual Open exhibition has been overwhelmingly positive. New seating was acquired for Súil, including outdoor seating for the courtyard area, interior children's seating and tables, and Age Friendly armchairs. It is estimated Súil has welcomed 6000 visitors in 2025.

Three other exhibitions were held in the Foyer of the Museum, in Cultúrlann Sweeney Kilkee and in the Gallery at the Scariff library. Sing Ireland continue to work with Brothers of Charity groups (countywide) and the Dulick Centre. Clare Youth Theatre weekly workshops with 72 young people continued in Ennis and Kilkee with a Christmas performance in glór. The Arts office received 74 applications for the Creative Bursaries 2026 call out. Ciara Malone has begun an artist-in-residency with Kilnamona NS and Miltown Malbay NS.



Social Media

Facebook 12 November 25-9 December 25

	Views	Interactions	New Page followers	Total followers
Clare Arts Office	42,539	685	43	3,656
Cultúrlann Sweeney	6,110	44	19	2,237
CYT - Clare Youth Theatre	347	0	3	604
Arts In Clare Group				3,825
Clare Trad Group				3,007

Instagram 12 November 25-9 December 25

Account	Views	Followers	Reach
Clare Arts Office	7,703	1,159	2,925
Súil	14,515	546	992

KILLALOE LOCAL ELECTORAL AREA - KILLALOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Killaloe-Ballina First-Ever Christmas Tree Lighting

Hundreds gathered to witness the first ever Christmas Tree Lighting event co-hosted by Killaloe and Nenagh Municipal Districts with entertainment organised by Clare County Council and Lough Derg Tourism departments. The honour of switching on the lights was given to Little Blue hero Shayne Collins. Children got to meet Santa Claus and pose for pictures with Mickey and Minnie Mouse.

The crowd were entertained by the local youth choirs and a DJ, getting everyone into the spirit of Christmas while also enjoying some festive treats. The 20 Ft sustainable Christmas Tree is new attraction for both locals and visitors to enjoy over the festive season for years to come.

Specific Improvement Works - Ogonnelloe

The Specific Improvement project at Ogonnelloe valued at €220k, is now complete. The works included construction of raised table pedestrian crossing with belisha beacons, 2 No. raised tables, installing new 50km/h speed limit, kerb buildout,

footpath buildout, installation of tactile paving, public lighting columns, all associated signs and road markings.



FINANCE, INVESTMENT & ENTERPRISE

ENTERPRISE & INVESTMENT

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

- **Mentoring:** LEO Clare has had a substantial demand for one-to-one mentoring support. To date, 344 clients have been assigned expert mentors to assist them in enhancing their businesses, 15 of those assigned during the month of December.
- **Training:** Approx. 85 participants took part in a range of training programmes over the month of December, in the areas of Start Your Own Business, AI training & Recruitment & a Women in Business networking workshop.
- **Productivity Supports:** With rising prices affecting all businesses, LEO Clare has various productivity supports to assist businesses offset higher input costs. To date in December, LEO Clare have processed applications for 36 Digital for Business, 37 Green for Business and 19 Lean for Business consultancies, along with 24 Energy Efficiency Grants and 12 Grow Digital Vouchers.

LEO Clare Client Networking Event

LEO Clare hosted a Christmas Business Networking Morning at Future Mobility Campus Ireland in Shannon on Friday, 28th November - bringing together a full house of entrepreneurs, startups & small business leaders for a half-day of insight, innovation & connection. With keynote speaker Mark Kelly of AI Ireland sharing how AI can revitalise enterprises, Conor Smith offering expert guidance on auto enrolment for small businesses & Michael Queally providing a sharp outlook on the economic trends ahead, attendees gained practical strategies to future-proof their ventures. The event was attended by over 50 local businesses & wrapped up with a lively panel discussion, Q&A, and networking over a light lunch.



Theresa Mulvihill Killeen with panel speakers Michael Queally of AMQ, Mark Kelly of AI Ireland, & Conor Smith of Insight LPI



Bernie Haugh, Theresa Mulvihill Killeen, Helen Pilkington & Marie Thornton of LEO Clare

Women in Business Networking Event

On Wednesday, 10th December 2025, the Local Enterprise Office Clare hosted the *Women in Business Networking Event: "Building Resilience in Business - Starting with Self Care"* at The Old Ground Hotel, Ennis, welcoming 65 local female entrepreneurs. The keynote address was delivered by Peigín Crowley, founder of GROUND, a wellness brand born in 2020 that has since grown into an internationally recognised provider of spa experiences & products designed to address anxiety, burnout, gut health, and cancer care. Drawing on her 30 years of expertise in the spa industry, Peigín shared insights on self-care as the foundation of resilience, alongside her entrepreneurial journey of diversification, reinvention & scaling a purpose-driven business. The event also featured contributions from Georgie Browne of AxisBIC & Sinead Crowley of AwakenHub, culminating in a panel discussion and festive networking lunch, reinforcing the strength & achievements of women in business across the region.



Helen Pilkington & Theresa Mulvihill Killeen, LEO Clare with Speakers Peigín Crowley, Sinead Crowley & Georgie Browne



Theresa Mulvihill Killeen with some of the female entrepreneurs in attendance

Clare Business Excellence Awards 2025

This year's event marked the 15th running of these prestigious local awards. Big winners on the night included O'Connor's Bakery, for 'Best Family Business' and the overall award for 'Clare Business of the Year'. The Clare Business Excellence Awards 2025 Gala Ceremony & Dinner was held at the Inn at Dromoland, on Thursday November 27, hosted by Ennis Chamber in partnership with Clare County Council. Mick Guinee was the very worthy recipient of the inaugural Ennis Chamber President's Award for Lifetime Achievement. He received an appreciative sustained standing ovation for his contribution and legacy to the region as an engineer, employer, entrepreneur, innovator and philanthropist.

The Local Enterprise Office Clare was delighted to sponsor and present the award for Best Micro Business to People and Place Ltd. which showcase the diversity and innovation of the businesses community across the County and represent a positive reflection of a vibrant and sustainable local economy. Other finalists under this category included Atlantic Clinical Packaging, SIAR Photography and O'Brien Learning Solutions, Relative newcomers BEO -The Well scooped two category awards for 'Best Café' and 'Best New Business'. Zimmer Biomet took the honours for 'Best Manufacturer' while Lahinch Coast Hotel won what is traditionally considered the hardest fought category – 'Customer Service Excellence'. MC for the Gala Dinner & Awards Ceremony was comedian and author Colm O'Regan, who brought professionalism and a lot of laughter to the room.



Bernadette Haugh, Head of Enterprise presenting the award to Justin Gleeson of People & Place Ltd., under the Best Micro Business Category



President of Ennis Chamber Diarmuid McMahon, Bernadette Haugh, Head of Enterprise, Noeleen Fitzgerald, Director of Finance, Investment & Enterprise and Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr. Paul Murphy



Cathaoirleach Cllr. Paul Murphy & Gordon Daly, CE of Clare County Council presenting the overall award of Clare Business of the Year 2025 to Ann-Marie O'Connor of O'Connor's Bakery.

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Digital Skills for Seniors Programme - Ennistymon Hub

Our Digital Skills for Seniors programme in Ennistymon successfully concluded in early December, marking a significant achievement in helping participants embrace technology with confidence. Over the course of the programme, learners learned valuable skills such as:

- Using the Internet for everyday tasks and information.
- Email communication for staying in touch.
- WhatsApp and Facebook for connecting with friends and family.

These skills are essential for reducing isolation and enabling people to remain engaged with their communities and loved ones.

A highlight of the programme was the inclusion of Transition Year (TY) students from Ennistymon Community School, whose involvement proved invaluable. Learners repeatedly praised the students for being helpful, friendly, and knowledgeable. Their face-to-face support made the learning experience more enjoyable and effective. As one participant noted:

"The students were a very important part of the learning - helpful, pleasant, and a credit to their school."



TY Students giving one to one training to participants.

We also visited the library in Ennistymon, where participants discovered the wealth of free online resources available to members. The BorrowBox app, offering free access to eBooks, audiobooks, newspapers, and magazines, was a big hit. Many were amazed to learn that they could borrow items from any library in Ireland.



Emer Bowen, Executive Librarian and Jackie Dermody, IS Analyst Developer, Digital Transformation Department with Digital Skills learners in Ennistymon Library.

The final session focused on online safety, covering how to identify and avoid scams, protect personal information, and stay secure while using digital tools.

The feedback from the participants was resoundingly positive:

- *"Information on the handouts was excellent and easy to follow."*
- *"I have more knowledge now on how to use my phone."*
- *"This course has been an excellent experience. I wasn't enthusiastic about the digital world, but I realise it cannot be avoided."*
- *"The learning has helped me and given me a lot of confidence."*
- *"I can now use my phone and apps with more confidence."*
- *"The hub facilities were excellent."*

Building on the success of this initiative, we plan to explore other hubs in 2026, particularly those located near secondary schools, so that this collaborative model of learning can be rolled out more widely. The partnership between seniors and TY students has proven to be a winning formula, and we look forward to expanding this approach to benefit more communities.

Capital Projects update in Scariff & Ennistymon

Scariff - New Enterprise and Community Hub



Artist impression of the new Enterprise and Community Hub in Scariff

Work is progressing on our state-of-the-art Enterprise and Community Hub located on Scariff's Main Street. This modern

facility is scheduled to open towards the end of summer 2026 and will provide a vibrant space for remote workers, businesses and community groups.

In the New Year, we plan to host open nights for locals, businesses, and community organisations. These sessions will showcase the spaces available and outline how the hub can support SMEs and entrepreneurs. We will also seek input from community groups on how best to provide spaces that meet their needs.

A key feature of the hub will be a media suite, equipped with podcasting and video production facilities. This resource will be available for booking and we aim to collaborate with local educational institutions to maximise its use for learning and creative projects.

Ennistymon - Hub Extension

Work on the hub extension in Ennistymon will commence in early January 2026. The expanded space will include:

- Private offices
- Meeting rooms
- Private pods
- A media suite with podcasting and video facilities.

This extension is being developed in collaboration with the Tourism Department, as part of the building will accommodate staff from the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience.

These projects represent a significant investment in supporting local enterprise, education, and community engagement. Both hubs will offer modern facilities designed to foster innovation, collaboration, and growth.

FINANCE

Procurement

The following Clare County Council tender competitions were published on eTenders in the period from 25th November to 15th December inclusive:

Tender Name	RFT ID	Response deadline	Procedure
Athletic Track Refurbishment works at John O'Sullivan Park, Lees Road, Ennis, Co. Clare	7165541	23/01/2026 00:00	Open
Renovation Works at No. 5 Deerpark, Ennistymon, Co Clare	7158127	22/01/2026 16:00	Open
Renovation Works at Nos. 2 and 5 Knockanean Halting Site, Tulla Road, Ennis, Co Clare	7147206	22/01/2026 16:00	Open
Supply Of Battery-Operated Hydraulic Rescue Equipment	7078636	12/01/2026 14:00	Open

SHANNON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Shannon Christmas Lights

Families were encouraged to bask in festive cheer as the Christmas lights were turned on at Shannon Town Park on Monday the 1st of December. Festivities got underway at 5:30pm where there was music from DJ Chris Walshe, carol singing from the Shannon Gospel Choir and a special visit by Santa and Mrs Claus. The ceremony to switch on the lights followed on from that at 6pm, with Shannon Municipal District Cathaoirleach John Crowe having the honour of lighting up the town. The night was thoroughly enjoyed by elected members, local authority officials and the public.



Councillors at the Christmas Light Event



Switching on the Christmas Lights in Shannon Town Park



Switching on the Christmas Lights in Shannon Town Park

Shannon Municipal District Community Grant Clinics

The Shannon MD's Rural Community Development officer hosted two walk-in clinics in the Shannon Springs Hotel and Clonlara Community Centre. These clinics sought to advise and support community groups/organisations in project development and funding opportunities. The clinics had a strong level of attendance from a broad range of community groups and organisations. This level of engagement provides a strong foundation for future collaboration within the Shannon Municipal District and the community groups.



Council Staff at the Community Grant Clinic Shannon

Works Underway

- Ongoing road maintenance works throughout the Municipal District.
- Responding to complaints from the public, community groups and local representatives.
- Works to storm water pumps in Pump House 3 Drumgeely, Shannon, continued, with the overhaul of the electrical panels.
- Installation of new road markings and refreshment of existing markings at various locations in the Municipal District (Shannon Town, Newmarket on Fergus, Sixmilebridge).
- Verge / hedge maintenance works in the Clonlara and Meelick area.
- Works started on the Low-Cost Safety Scheme at Cronan Junction on Bother na Luachra in Shannon.
- Tree maintenance works focused on Newmarket on Fergus, Shannon and Westbury.
- A new raised uncontrolled pedestrian crossing was installed on Bothar na Luachra, Tradaree Court and Corrib Drive in Shannon Town.
- Overlay works were completed on the regional road in Kildoorus and Ardataggle, Clonlara and on the Kilmurry Road in Sixmilebridge.

Installation of a seating bench and planters in Parteen.



Installation of seating bench and planters in Parteen

New raised Pedestrian Crossing at St Senan's School, Shannon



New Raised Pedestrian Crossing at St Senan's School Shannon

New raised Uncontrolled Pedestrian Crossing in Tradaree, Shannon



New Raised Uncontrolled Pedestrian Crossing in Tradaree, Shannon

New Controlled Raised Pedestrian Crossing at Aidan Park Bus Stop Shannon



New Controlled Raised Pedestrian Crossing at Aidan Park Bus Stop Shannon

Road repairs by the Velocity Patcher in the Shannon Municipal District



Road Repairs by Velocity Patcher Shannon MD

Junction improvement works at Cronan Junction



Junction improvement works at Cronan Junction