

Ennis ACA Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2026

These guidance notes are provided to help you understand the aims of the Ennis Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) Streetscape Improvement Scheme 2026 and how you can make a grant application.

Aim of Initiative

“To enhance the historic character and traditional street scene of Ennis and create properties which are more attractive for residents, visitors, shoppers and businesses.”

The condition of a town's properties are usually the most conspicuous part of first impressions of the town and therefore, they have a considerable impact on town centre and it's appearance. The appearance and condition of a property can really affect a town's image.

Well-presented properties make a town feel more prosperous, improve its image and contribute towards a stronger sense of identity. It is also important that the entire building including the first floor, side and rear (if visible) is also presented well.

As property owner/occupier in the Town of Ennis you are hereby invited to apply to participate in this scheme.

Conditions of the Scheme

Commercial Properties: The buildings must be located in Ennis Town Centre within the boundary of the Architectural Conservation Area (ACA). To see if your business is within an eligible location please click here. [Ennis Town ACA – Google My Maps](#)

Residential Properties: Standalone residential properties with ground floor accommodation (not apartments) who directly adjoin Public Realm Works Project A or Project B can also avail of the scheme. To see if your residence is within an eligible location please click here. [Residential – Google My Maps](#)

Painting colours, repairs, reinstatements and changes to any property shall be agreed in advance with Clare County Council. Where applicable, works and repairs to rainwater goods such as gutters and downpipes shall be prioritised.

Certain buildings in Ennis Town Centre are either Protected Structures or located in an Architectural Conservation Area. In these instances the exterior of the buildings are protected and subject to the following conditions:

- **External Painting** - Painting should comply with traditional painting schemes i.e. pastel colours on rendered walls and dark colours on property-fronts and doors. In some instances hydraulic Lime paints shall be used on lime-render, in order to preserve breathability and damp-proofing qualities.
- **Repair/Reinstate** - Emphasis will be on isolated repairs to existing properties lead cornice flashing, rainwater goods etc, using like with like materials. Cast-iron rainwater goods should be repaired and maintained where they exist.

Grants will not be available to alter existing properties except in exceptional cases. In certain cases particular changes to the front of a building may require planning permission.

- The Scheme offers a grant amount max. of €1,000 or 80%, whichever is the lesser, of the cost of the work to each applicant who is successful in the application process.
- Works will only be acceptable if they lead to the improvement of properties that are visible to the public and prominent from the main streets and, where applicable, include for works and repairs to rainwater goods such as gutters and downpipes shall be prioritised.
- Applications are invited from owners and occupiers – with the written consent of the owner(s) from 9am on Monday 2nd February 2026 to by 6pm on Friday 27th February 2026. Only one application will be granted per property.
- Commercial property applicants must be rates compliant
- Where a colour change is proposed the proposed colour scheme must also be submitted including brand name and reference number.
- The successful applicant will be required to complete the approved works in a satisfactory manner on or before 31st October 2026.
- Where a contractor is engaged they must be tax compliant.
- Payment will be made directly to the applicant (owner or occupier of the property) once the approved works have been carried out and the Grant Claim Form is submitted, fully complete and includes all required receipts, etc.
- Grants will not be offered in respect of works already complete.
- Before/after photographs of approved properties must be submitted and may be used by Clare County Council for use in promotional material.
- Works must not commence prior to formal approval in writing from Clare County Council, otherwise grants will not be paid.

Application Procedure

1. Applicants should assess their own eligibility (including need for planning) and return the completed Application Form along with estimate for works together with written consent of the property owner, where applicable.
2. An itemised list of proposed works including expected costs must be submitted with each application.
3. Where applicable, works to rainwater goods such as gutters and downpipes shall be prioritised.
4. A site visit may be arranged with the applicant to discuss the application and if necessary request further information.
5. If the application is successful, the Council will confirm in writing the amount of grant to be offered in accordance with the guidelines.
6. Any alterations to design and /or materials must be agreed in advance and recorded on the work schedule. No grant will be paid to any project where changes are made that have not been agreed with the Council.
7. Where a contractor is appointed the successful applicant will be required to obtain all necessary consents and comply with legislation and codes of practice particularly those related to Health & Safety which apply to such work and/or approved schemes. This includes Section 254 licenses for the purpose of erecting scaffolding or hoarding or the placing of an appliance on a public road or footpath.
8. Further site visits may be made during the period of work to monitor progress.
9. When work is complete, an inspection may be undertaken to ensure compliance with the agreed work.
10. Given the inspection is satisfactory and works are complete, the applicant should submit evidence of invoices to the Council. Where contractors are used proof of tax compliance should be submitted.

- 11.** The Council will then pay the applicant the agreed sum on completion of works. Payments will be processed within 10 weeks of receipt of evidence for successful applicants under this scheme. Prompt processing of payments depends on the submission of all relevant documentation.