



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

TUARASCÁIL MHÍOSÚIL ÓN PHRÍOMHFHEIDHMEANNACH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Iúil / July
2025



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RURAL DEVELOPMENT



Rialtas
na hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

National Outdoor Recreation Conference 2025

The National Outdoor Recreation Conference 2025 was held on 26th June at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Limerick and attended by staff from the Rural and Community Development Directorate. Hosted by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCDG) and Comhairle na Tuaithe, the conference focused on *“Embracing Ireland’s Outdoors - Working together to deliver high quality and sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities.”* The annual conference aims to bring together the key national stakeholders in outdoor recreation to provide networking opportunities, share best practice and inform policy implementation and future policy development. It included a session on responsible behaviour in the outdoors and also heard contributions from some of the trailblazing organisations in the sector.

The event was highly relevant to local authorities, particularly in the context of the development, delivery, and funding of outdoor recreation projects through national programmes such as ORIS (Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme).

Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Dara Calleary TD, addressed the conference and launched the ‘Recreation in Ireland’s Outdoors’ booklet. The booklet has been developed for landowners who provide recreational access to their lands, and recreational users, and informs them of their rights and obligations. Attendees also had the opportunity to participate in local outdoor activities, including a visit to the Limerick Greenway.



HEALTHY CLARE

Mens Health Event 2025



On Thursday 12th June, Clare County Council, Healthy Clare and Ennis Medical Center, came together to host a Mens Health Day event in the Buttermarket. With over 90 men in attendance, the event which was delivered to council staff and the wider community showcased supports and resources available to support men covering a range of topics to include; lifestyle medicine, cancer awareness and prevention, sleep hygiene, positive mental health, physical activity and health literacy.

Speaking at the event Ann Reynolds, Director of Service Rural Department, stated that *‘Cultural norms, societal pressures, and simple lack of awareness have led to many men ignoring symptoms, delaying check-ups, and missing opportunities for early intervention. Today, we stand together, shoulder to shoulder to change that trend here in Co. Clare, as we look to ensure that we all understand the importance of prioritising our physical and mental well-being’.*

Feedback on the event has been positive, showing a clear need to continue raising awareness throughout the county on mens health and wellbeing.

Other stakeholders who came together in the delivery of the event included; HSE, Mental Health Ireland, Clare Sports Partnership, the National Office of Suicide Prevention, LCETB, SOLAS, Employability Clare, GROW, FASD.



Healthy Clare Core Fund

Healthy Clare ‘Hydrate and Refill’ Drawing Competition

The Healthy Clare Programme collaborated with Clare Sports Partnership, Active Ennis, and Clare Education Centre to host a drawing competition across Co. Clare primary schools to highlight the benefits of hydration and water bottle reuse for individuals and the environment. Participants were invited to create a drawing or painting that highlights the significance of staying hydrated and the positive impact of reusing bottles. The appraisal committee asked that each entry emphasise how water refill stations help individuals to maintain good health through proper hydration and contribute to

environmental sustainability by reducing plastic waste.

The competition ran across three categories in primary schools. Below is a summary of the entry and winner details.

- Eight schools submitted artwork with one individual, not linked to a school submitting an entry.
- Circa, 120 individual drawings were received as part of the competition.
- Six winning schools were visited for prize giving.
- There were ten winners.
 - 1 x Cat 1,
 - 3 x Cat 2, 3 x Cat 3,
 - 1 Overall Winner,
 - 2 Commended Entries.

Applications were judged by Creative Clare and Clare County Council Climate Office. Their feedback really highlighted the quality of applicants. The overall winner, pictured above came from Toonagh NS.

E Birdthistle, Creative Clare stated that, 'The submissions to the Hydrate and Refill primary school art competition showcased a remarkable level of creativity and enthusiasm. Students demonstrated their understanding of the importance of staying hydrated and caring for the environment through vibrant drawings and imaginative designs. The variety of artwork reflected both individual talent and thoughtful messages about sustainability, making the competition an inspiring display of young minds committed to making a positive impact.' D Dever, Climate Department stated that, 'The poster competition entries were very impressive. They showcased a wide variety of ideas and creativity. It was inspiring to see the interest the students have in protecting our environment and highlighting the importance of proper hydration. The students brought a unique perspective to the themes and the colour and imagination used was striking. Congratulations to all who entered and well done to all the prize winners.'

to develop food from the garden. This day was also supported by Clare Local Development Company, who are working with community gardens across Co. Clare assessing support needs. Of the 22 individual who attended the event, all said that they left with skills and knowledge to continue growing at home.



Health and Wellbeing Page Clare Echo



Clare Garden Festival: Extending the Season

(Insert Image 4: Ennis Mens Shed Extending the Season Event)

22 individuals attended a planting workshop at Ennis Mens Shed on 19th June. Showcasing the new polytunnel which was secured through a climate grant. The members of Ennis Mens Shed encouraged participants to stroll around the facility to see how they have managed to grow produce outside of the traditional growing season. The main speaker at the event, Rebecca Cronin, gave a workshop on the Healthy Clare theme of 'Extending the Season' supporting individuals to plant in small containers that can be used

In June the Health and Wellbeing page featured:

- **Mens Health Awareness Week Mens Health Event:** as part of Mens Health week, the main event was highlighted through the wellbeing page.
- **Mens Cancer Awareness and Prevention:** to coincide with Mens Health week, Healthy Clare and the HSE came together to promote cancer awareness in men and the HSE Sun Smart campaign.
- **International Day Against Drugs and Illicit Trafficking:** Featuring key messages from the Mid West Regional Drugs and Alcohol forum, this page highlighted how The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) sets clear objectives to combat drug abuse through awareness, prevention, treatment, and policy reform.
- **Clare Community Substance Misuse Team (CSMT):** Highlighting supports available through the CSMT in Co. Clare, who since 2012 has been a vital support for young people and families impacted by substance misuse across Clare.

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

Healthy Clare Micro Fund 2025



On Thursday 26th of June, O'Currys GAA, with support from the Healthy Clare Micro Fund, delivered an inspiring talk by Dessie Fitzgeard on the importance of resilience in times of stress and the tools that he has used to become more resilient. Such tools have included; taking responsibility and making choices, identifying personal strength than can be found in vulnerability, goal setting and practicing gratitude.

The evening was aimed at promoting mental well-being through engaging activities and motivational talks. By creating a supportive environment, the committee hope to reduce stigma around mental health and encourage open discussions. This event and subsequent events will foster connections, promote resilience, and empower participants to prioritise their mental health, ultimately contributing to a healthier community.

BOI Event

Clare Age Friendly was honoured to participate as a guest speaker at the recent Bank of Ireland "Protecting Your Home, Protecting Your Finances" event, held on May 28th at 10:30 AM in the Old Ground Hotel.

The panel featured esteemed speakers, including Grace Murphy from the Bank of Ireland Fraud Department, Sharon Cahir of Cahir Solicitors, and Ann Marie Walshe, Senior Advice Consultant at Bank of Ireland.

The primary objective of the event was to provide valuable insights into fraud prevention, Enduring Power of Attorney, and safeguarding personal finances for the future. The event was well-attended and received highly positive feedback from participants.



Return of the Cultural Companions

The Clare Age Friendly Programme, in collaboration with Creative Ireland, was thrilled to warmly welcome back members of the Clare Cultural Companions for a special gathering on May 29th at Glór.

The event was filled with lively conversations, reconnecting friendships, and a warm atmosphere. Attendees were greeted with refreshments and a chance to catch up before enjoying a screening of Housewife of the Year, which sparked plenty of discussion and nostalgia.

It was truly a heartwarming occasion, celebrating the vibrancy of Clare's cultural community and the joy of shared experiences. Here's to many more inspiring get-togethers ahead!



Age Friendly Ambassador Day 2025 - Visual Carlow

The event was attended by Clare's Age Friendly Ambassador, Mike Hanrahan; Chairperson of the Clare Older People's Council, Mary O'Callaghan; and Clare Age Friendly Programme Manager, Shanelle Waring. All Age Friendly Ambassadors were invited, and their voluntary work was warmly acknowledged and commended.

Hosted by Carlow County Council in their stunning VISUAL Theatre, the event saw the launch of "Supporting Creativity in Older Age" - a collaborative project between Age Friendly Ireland and Creative Ireland. Catherine McGuigan, Chief Officer of the Age Friendly Ireland Shared Service, officially launched the initiative. The project features a toolkit designed to scale up creative initiatives that support the wellbeing of older people.



Literacy Changing Lives Showcase

Clare Age Friendly Programme Manager attended this event alongside Tom Kent and the team from LCETB, showing strong regional support for adult literacy initiatives. The national event was held in Croke Park on 16th June 2025. The day was a vibrant celebration of innovation, collaboration, and community, highlighting the transformative power of literacy across Ireland.

The event featured:

- A dynamic World Café session where 32 projects shared their experiences and insights
- Keynotes from national leaders including Minister Marian Harkin and SOLAS CEO Andrew Brownlee
- The launch of a new Plain Language eLearning module

- Four engaging workshops on Family Literacy, Financial Literacy, Numeracy, and Media Literacy

Attendees also had access to a comprehensive Projects Menu and Agenda, along with workshop materials and research resources to continue the learning beyond the day.



Tulla Town Team - Age Friendly Walkability Study

On 17th June 2026, the Age Friendly Team, led by Shanelle Waring, in collaboration with the Town Centre First Department led by Joan Tarmey, and supported by the Senior Executive Engineer Declan Flanagan from Killaloe Municipal District, conducted Tulla's first Age Friendly Walkability Study. The event was well attended by members of the Tulla Town Team and the wider community, who actively participated to ensure the study reflected the needs and experiences of all members of the community.



Chairperson of the Clare Local Community Development Committee Members (LCDC), Cllr. Joe Killeen, together with LCDC Members, Age Friendly Programme Manager and LCSP Coordinator, pictured at Vandeuleur Walled Gardens at the LCDC April statutory meeting,

The LCDC is responsible for the delivery of the Local Economic and Community Plan 2024 -2030. An online reporting platform is being developed to facilitate agency reporting on the KPI's agreed under the LECP 2025/2026 with an interim report to be submitted to the LCDC in September 2025.

The LCDC must hold six statutory meetings per annum. In 2025 to date Clare LCDC have held four statutory meetings with additional meetings held by three sub committees to support the work of the LCDC.

To coincide with the plan this year the LCDC have invited agencies leading on delivery of high level goals in the LECP to present.

To date presentations have been made by

- The Health Service Executive gave a detailed presentation on skin care prevention, Health Literacy and Clare Healthcare Access Project aims to examine and address the challenges experienced by populations in Co. Clare when accessing HSE Primary Care Community Healthcare Network (CHN) services.
- Clare Age Friendly Programme on the Clare Age Friendly Strategy 2024 -2030
- Heathy Clare co Ordinator gave an overview on the themes of Healthy Clare programme and how it aligns with the LECP
- An Garda Siochana gave a presentation on Crime Prevention through community and business engagement
- Ashlene Reyburn was recently appointed as Local Community Safety Partnership Co-ordinator for Clare and provided an update on the legislation, make up of membership and the role of the LCSP in terms of community safety and future collaboration with the LCDC.

Local Enhancement Programme 2025:-

The Local Enhancement Programme is administered annually by the LCDC on behalf of the DRCDG. This programme is delivered over two strands

- Strand 1:- Capital funding €157,195.00
- Strand 2:- Current funding for day to day running costs €25,866.00

This year 293 applications were received for a total funding request of €881,474.67. Applications were assessed and recommended by the LCDC Finance Sub Committee to the LCDC for onward consideration and approval by the Minister. On13th June 2025 Minister Dara Calleary announced the successful award to 254 Community Groups and organisations in Clare for a total funding allocation of 183,061.00.

Dormant Account Funding 2025 Four expressions of interest were received under the Dormant Account Fund 2025. Funding of €19,924.00 was awarded to Common Knowledge. in 2024 Common Knowledge commenced a pilot project supported by the LCDC of developing Queer sheds with the aim of building community, tackling social isolation, improving wellbeing and skills development for LGBTQI+ people in rural areas. The pilot was a huge success and in 2025 they aspire to build on investment to date to deepen their impact locally and explore a potential national network through an expanded programme that will continue to build community, promote wellbeing and tackle social isolation for queer people in rural Ireland.

Healthy Clare Micro Fund 2025

Total Fund €29,600.00. Over 100 applications received. 31 projects

approved for funding which focused on the Healthy Clare identified themes of Healthy Weight and Mental Health.

- **Healthy Weight:-** The target is to decrease the number of adults who are obese in the general population with emphasis on Older Persons, Refugees and Migrants.
- **Mental Health:-** Decrease in the number of people showing negative mental health as per Mental Health Index-5 over the past 4 weeks. The aim is to focus on people with substance use disorders, people with disabilities (social/sensory/intellectual and learning disabilities/ASD), General Population.

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2024-2028

The LCDC is the contracting authority for the SICAP Programme in Clare, with a monitoring and reporting responsibility on the delivery

of SICAP and associated budget. The programme provides funding to tackle poverty and social exclusion at a local level through local engagement and partnerships between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and Public Sector Agencies. The budget for 2025 is €1,625,515.29 which is administered through Clare Local Development Company as the programme implementor contracted by the LCDC.

Community Development Pilot- Clare Traveller CDP.

Funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht. Clare Traveller Community project was one of seven projects selected in 2022 for a three year pilot. The project was successful in securing additional funding for 2025 & 2026 to build on progress to date.

CORPORATE SERVICES

Freedom of Information & Data Protection:

Previous years and 2025 to date - statistics to 30th June 2025

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Freedom of Information Requests	152	176	119	156	135	82
Freedom of Information Internal Review Applications	6	13	8	4	5	3
Appeals handled by Information Commissioner	1	4	2	4	4	0
Data Access Requests - Subject Access Request	5	6	10	10	13	4
Data Requests - Erasure Request	0	1	1	2	0	0
Data Access Requests - Third Party Access Requests e.g. Gardaí	20	27	27	29	29	16

Communications

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

- 17 media releases were issued during June 2025, including:
- Shannon's Old Trees Carve New Life into Town Park
- New Rescue Boat Delivered to Clare Civil Defence in Major Fleet Upgrade
- Councillor Paul Murphy elected Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council

Social Media

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

In the period 1-30 June 2025, the Communications Office:

- Posted 64 times on Facebook, with total followers now 22,950.
- Posted 45 times on X (formerly Twitter), with total followers over 8.8K.
- 64 Posts on Instagram followers are now 4,748.

(Statistics accurate as of 30/6/2025)

Register of Electors

Work is continuing by the project team within the Franchise Section on reviewing the accurateness of the existing data on the Register of Electors, including duplicate date of birth/PPSN/addresses. Dublin City Council are the lead authority for this project. Work will be paused in September 2025, due to the impending Presidential Election.

Business Innovation

The Innovation team continue to progress projects that will improve efficiency in the services provided.

A number of projects have been prioritised for 2025 action plan. Updates will be given as these projects progress.

The development of an ArcGis showing the location of water/gas networks is now complete. A Housing Dashboard is also being developed to manage the inspection of Housing stock.

Briefing from National Broadband Ireland (NBI)

Senior Staff from National Broadband Ireland (NBI) attended Aras Contae an Chlair on 19th June and provided a Briefing to the Elected Members advising on the status of the National Broadband rollout nationally with specific updates re Co. Clare.

Senior Stakeholders of NBI (including the Chairman David McCourt, CEO Peter Hendrick, Bernie Gray, Minister's Appointed Board Director, Patrick Neary, Assistant Secretary General Department of

Culture, Communications and Sport and Clive Ryan, Department of Culture, Communications and Sport met with the Cathaoirleach, Deputy Chief Executive & Director for Tourism on the same date before holding a Board Meeting of NBI in Aras Contae an Chlair.



Deputation to TII Offices

On 28th May a Deputation from Clare Co Council, including Chairs of the MDs as well as senior executive staff of the Transportation & PMO, met with senior staff of the TII at their offices in Dublin to discuss a broad range of issues involving national roads in Co. Clare. The TII demonstrated a great deal of familiarity with the issues raised and undertook to support the Local Authority as best they could. It was agreed that further such meetings could be facilitated to keep the local Authority updated.



CULTURAL SERVICES - LIBRARY, ARTS, MUSEUM & ARCHIVES MANAGEMENT

Clare Libraries

De Valera Library

Some of the events in De Valera Library this month included the following,

Former City and County engineers from across Ireland were delighted to visit the new De Valera library in Ennis. They were given a guided tour, a talk on local history and a presentation on the Castles of Clare and Ireland by local historian Martin Breen. De Valera library hosted a spine-tingling evening of crime with authors Lucy O'Callaghan & Karen Fitzgibbon. Attendees enthusiastically joined in on a discussion of the authors' recent works and discussed their love for crime fiction.

The total number of events in libraries this month are listed below.

Library Activities in Figures

Total number of in branch events	275
Total audiences at in branch events	3,691
Total number of outreach events	15
Total audiences at outreach events	274
Total number of deliveries	7
Total number of class novels issued	5

IT classes and services

IT classes finished up this month in De Valera, Ennistymon and Tulla libraries. They will resume in September.

Other IT services

IT classes (type of class and attendees)	81
Surfbox (automated printing/photocopying)	164
General Printing	135
Helping with PCRes (log in to internet in library)	91
Accessing Wi-Fi	88
Helping with users' own devices	58
Clare Libraries website queries	60
Helping users with OPAC (online public access catalogue)	22
Find My Past (database for genealogy)	7
Irish Newspaper Archives	18
Clare Libraries App	76
Borrowbox	149
Lapsafe (issue of laptops for use in De Valera library)	30
Hublet (issue of tablets for use in De Valera library)	22
Cubbie (sensory unit in DeValera library)	13
Multi-Purpose Room (De Valera library) - AV equipment	17
Total	1,031

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

2,030 E-Books	4,178 E-Audiobooks	13,016 ePress (magazines & newspapers)
166 Online Courses	47 Transparent Languages	

Marketing & Social media Media releases

There were 4 media releases this month - Skills for Life Programme launch, Financial Wellness course in Scariff Library, O'Dea Clan Gathering and the Summer Stars programme. Library staff attended the Clare Older People's Volunteer of the Year Award event to promote library services.





Library Outreach event



Library Summer Stars at Scariff

Library Social Media activity

	Total Followers	New Followers	Post Reach/ Impressions	Post Likes
	8,605	56	21,200	645
	2,760	61	12,189	527

Children's Services



Launch of Summer Stars Reading Programme in De Valera Library

Clare Libraries launched its summer reading programme Summer Stars in De Valera Library on the 12 June. Children from the Holy Family Junior School celebrated the launch with a morning of bubble

making and juggling with Little Top Stars. Children who register for the Summer Stars programme will receive an activity book and a bookmark containing wildflower seeds that can be planted in soil. A programme of over 40 free events for ages 0 - 12 years is also scheduled in all Clare Library branches during July and August. Events include workshops in creative writing, visual art, biodiversity, mindfulness and chess.

Healthy Ireland

Six Healthy Ireland events took place this month

1. Tutors from Mid-West ARIES facilitated a Journaling for Wellbeing workshop at Kilkee Library with 11 participants.
2. Healthy Ireland funded a Tai chi session as part of "Men's Health Awareness Week", an outreach event was held at Kilrush Community Centre with 17 participants
3. The Healthy Ireland at Your Library Coordinator took part in a Men's Health Awareness event at the Buttermarket Building in Ennis. A collection of Healthy Ireland library books was displayed together with information on joining the library. Over 90 people attended the event on the day.
4. Shannon Library hosted a talk by Pius Murray on the health and wellbeing benefits of walking, attended by 8 people.
5. Scariff Library held a Tai Chi class led by instructor Kevin Kinsella, with 10 attendees. Feedback from participants was very positive.



Creative Ireland

Cruinniú na nÓg - a national day of creativity for children and teens was held on Saturday, 7th June, featuring 35 workshops and events across 22 locations throughout the county. This year's focus was on engaging those who often have limited opportunities to participate in creative activities. Highlights included a workshop facilitated by Helium Arts for young people with lifelong health conditions at Súil Gallery, an art workshop with members of Ennis Voices for Autism at Tim Smyth Park, and two workshops on filmmaking and Ukrainian legends organised by Clare Youth Service in Lisdoonvarna and Kilkee.

A Creative Campus was established across De Valera Library, Súil, and glór, hosting a total of 10 workshops and performances. The Big Draw wall was particularly popular among very young community members. Additionally, as part of Cruinniú Late, Music Generation Clare Music Tech Lab engaged over 25 young people aged 14 to 18. Overall, the event attracted an estimated in-person audience of over 500 young people and their families, complemented by online engagement exceeding 200 participants.

The latest “Birds of a Feather”/Shared Island initiative visit took place in Ballinasloe from 11th to 13th June, bringing together 70 women from Ennis, Inishbofin, Belfast, and Ballinasloe. The visit featured craft workshops, a boat trip on the Shannon River, and informal story-sharing sessions. Participants represented a diverse range of backgrounds, including Catholic, Protestant, Nationalist, Loyalist, ethnic minorities, Travellers, inner-city working-class communities, island residents, and individuals with physical disabilities. The upcoming visit to Belfast in September will mark the final gathering of this two-year project.

Clare Arts Office

Súil welcomed 478 visitors this month.

Súil opened its exhibition Journeys - “Everything Begins Somewhere” on June 24th and held a daytime family celebration to open the exhibition, which was attended by 35 people. The event welcomed the children who had produced the artworks and their families. The exhibition was presented in partnership with Helium Arts, the national children’s art and health charity. Helium Arts brings artists to children and young people living with lifelong physical health conditions. Artists work at bedside in hospitals as well as in the community. As part of Súil’s partnership with Helium arts, Helium ran workshops in the gallery on Cruinniú Na nÓg, for children with

lifelong physical health conditions, for whom access to public art workshops may typically be very difficult. The workshops were attended by 61 people including children and families.

Súil’s Open Call has been finalised and 21 applications of 2,023 were successful. The successful exhibition proposals will form the basis of Súil’s programme for the next 3 years. Súil is preparing its next exhibition which will feature the work of over 20 artists from the Limerick Printmakers collective. This will be followed by an exhibition of the work of Carl Cardonnier a visual artist and photographer.

The Riches of Clare concert series commenced in splendid style at St. Columba’s Church during the Fleadh Nua week, drawing a fantastic crowd and setting the tone for a week of vibrant traditional music. With almost 1,000 people in attendance over the week, the concerts were a resounding success showcasing the incredible talent and cultural heritage that Clare is renowned for. The atmosphere was electric, marking a memorable start to this cherished traditional tradition.

Culture Night takes place on September 19th, applications went live on May 12th and closed June 5th. There were 32 applications submitted for Culture Night 2025. Successful applicants will be notified before the end of June.

Social Media

Facebook 18/05/25-16/6/25					
	Views	Post reach	Page Likes	New Page followers	Total followers
Clare Arts Office	13,072	7,096	2.9k	16	3,559
Cultúrlann Sweeney	10,174	21,433	1.9k	8	2,136
CYT - Clare Youth Theatre	667	235	553	3	596
Riches of Clare	28,967	8,701	2.8k	51	2,900
Clare culture night	508	218	1.2k	2	1,312
Arts In Clare Group	8,968				3,658
Clare trad Group	5,736				2,812
Instagram 18/05/25-16/6/25					
Account	views	Followers	reach		
Clare Arts Office	2,054	1,041	934		
Culture Night	379	227	193		
Suil art gallery	1,950	223	473		

Clare Museum



Storyteller, Julie Anne de Brun at Clare Museum

Clare Museum is now open for summer opening hours and is open six days a week until the end of September. Ten items were photographed and placed online during the month. One Museum item was taken to Dublin to a specialist for conservation.

Events

The Museum hosted a ‘Sketch Hunters’ workshop as part of Cruinniú na nÓg, 15 children attended. Children were shown how to draw using charcoal and had to pick artefacts on display to draw. The children’s drawings will be displayed in the museum. A blog entry was also posted on the event.

Storyteller, Julie Anne de Brun visited Clare Museum to host 4 separate Bealtaine workshops for primary school children. Over 130 children, teachers and teaching assistants, attended the events.

Local Studies and Archives



The Local Studies and Archives received several books from Ciarán Ó Murchadha, including the Ennis Workhouse copy of the Poor Law Compendium. A collection relating to George O'Callaghan Westropp has also been accessioned. This includes election posters, correspondence, and several publications.

Events

The O'Dea Clan association gathering was opened on the 13th of June. The County Librarian welcomed the new clan chief and 60 members to Ennis. An exhibition of books and ephemera relating to the history of the O'Dea Clan was held in the Local Studies and Archives area through the month. The archiving of Barrett Family Papers is now complete. Papers relating to Crotty's Pub in Kilrush were inadvertently mixed in with the Barrett collection. These have since been separated and archived with their own list. Follow-on cataloguing was carried out on several collections: Porte House, Ruan and Forster and Kelly Family Papers which had been accessioned a number of years ago but had not been processed. Work has begun to complete the archiving on the John Holohan family papers (Feakle Auctioneers and public representatives).

KILLALOE MD

Slieve Bearnagh - Feasibility Study on Mountain Bike Trial Centre

It is an objective of the *Elected Members of Killaloe MD Strategy and Workplan* to seek to develop a Mountain Bike Activity Centre in Moylussa and Slieve Bearnagh's through the development of feasibility study and collaboration with Coillte, landowners, activity providers and sporting agencies.

Further to the announcement and approval in 2024 of Outdoor Recreation Improvement Scheme (ORIS) funding and the completion of a tender process overseen by Killaloe MD, Niall Davis of Biking.ie has been appointed to undertake the feasibility study. Niall Davis is one of Ireland and UK's foremost trail designers and has worked on a number of projects across the country.

The feasibility assessment has commenced with some desk top assessments and high level survey work of the Slieve Bearnagh Areas over the summer time. It is anticipated that in September detailed engagement with a number of stakeholders would commence, with a view to completing the feasibility by end of year. A key objective is to maximise the tourism, recreation and social development of the Slieve Bearnagh's for a range of outdoor biking activities with a particular focus on any such venture benefiting the range of villages and settlements in the area.



Pedestrianisation Trial for Killaloe Bridge

Following engagement with a range of stakeholders by officials from Clare and Tipperary County Councils, in February of this year both local authorities agreed to pedestrianise the existing Killaloe Bridge for a trial period.

In June following a meeting between Elected Members of Killaloe and Nenagh Municipal Districts and officials from Clare and Tipperary County Councils the trial pedestrianisation of the old bridge linking Killaloe and Ballina will run from Monday, 28 July 2025 to Friday, 17 October 2025.



The trial, provided for under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994, aims to pilot a more pedestrian and cyclist-friendly route on the existing bridge between Killaloe and Ballina. The trial will also enable further detail and evidence of traffic flows and pedestrian movements between the towns to be gathered, and for the social, economic and tourism benefits to be measured.

Following completion of the trial period, and having regard to the submissions made, consideration of national, regional and local policy and an appraisal of all data gathered, both Tipperary County Council and Clare County Council will make a determination on the future arrangements and pedestrianisation of the old 18th Century bridge.

Pilot Project on Traffic Calming and Public Realm Enhancement designs for the Entrances/ Gateways into villages in East Clare

In June, Killaloe MD, commenced the preparation of a Pilot Project on Traffic Calming, Public Realm enhancements plan for the Gateways/Entrances to 4 villages of in the Municipal District of Killaloe, in East Clare. The selected villages are O'Callaghan's Mills, Broadford, Quin and Kilkishen.

The project - an objective of the Killaloe Elected Members of Killaloe MD Strategy and Workplan 2024-2029 seeks to provide detailed guidance to enable Clare County Council to provide a comprehensive and consistent approach to addressing evidence of speeding into/out of and in some cases through these villages. The pilot study will enable community consultation and participation by the community, Elected Members and An Garda Síochána, and the MD/Roads Authority to create a sustainable agreed approach to ensuring the entrances to these villages in East Clare reflect the nature and design characteristics of the villages and ensuring pedestrian and traffic safety for all users of the settlement.

Helena McElmeel and Alan Lipscombe Traffic consultants have been appointed to undertake the pilot study. It is envisaged that over the summer months survey and stakeholder engagement will commence with a number of community stakeholders, with a view to developing concepts and designs in October.

Outdoor Works

Significant Works advanced during the month of June by our outdoor crews across Killaloe MD

- On our Restoration Maintenance Programme for Killaloe, our surface dressing commenced on Tuesday the 10th June 2025 and was completed on 2nd July 2025
- On our Restoration Improvement programme, we are over 80% through our programme with works completed on 27 out of 33 roads.
- We have completed works on our two Local Improvement Scheme projects and have ongoing works to four of our Community Involvement Schemes with expected completion dates in September 2025
- On our Drainage programme, 4 out of 11 projects are completed, we will have crews working on the remaining projects over the next 2 months
- The Specific Improvement project at Ogonnelloe (€220k), this project is at design stage with our Road Design team. This project will go for Part VIII in early August 2025
- We have Two Local safety Improvement projects at Bodyke GAA and Ardclonney Bridge, these projects are at design stage.



Drainage works on the R-352 at Clooney

Road Crossing works underway on the R-352 at Lisbareen, Bodyke, Co. Clare



Site Foreman using a laser level for Drainage works on the R-352 at Clooney

Surface Dressing Works at Truagh - Phoenix chipping Polymer



Surface Dressing Works at Truagh

Topsoiling verges at Tobermurragh paths



Works ongoing at Tobermurragh paths

Works ongoing at Tobermurragh T & VR

Election of Cathaoirleach of Killaloe MD at AGM in Inis Cealtra Visitor Experience, Mountshannon

At the Municipal District of Killaloe AGM meeting held in The Rectory, Mountshannon, Cllr. Pat Burke was Elected Cathaoirleach of the MD and Cllr Tony O'Brien Leas-Cathaoirleach. The AGM which was a fitting, memorable and historic occasion having taken place in the recently opened The Rectory and Inis Cealtra Visitor Experience. The AGM and the hosting of the Meeting in Mountshannon further reflected the MD's approach to enhancing the provision of local authority services, local democracy and engagement with the communities and people of East Clare. The AGM held in the restored Rectory provide an opportunity for the public and attendees to the AGM to view the carefully restored, repurposed, Heritage building serving as a visitor and interpretative hub for Inis Cealtra, one of Ireland's most significant ecclesiastical heritage sites.



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

HOUSING

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

Clare County Council Housing Grants online application

The Council has launched a new online portal for our Housing Adaptation Grant for Older People and Disabled People. The

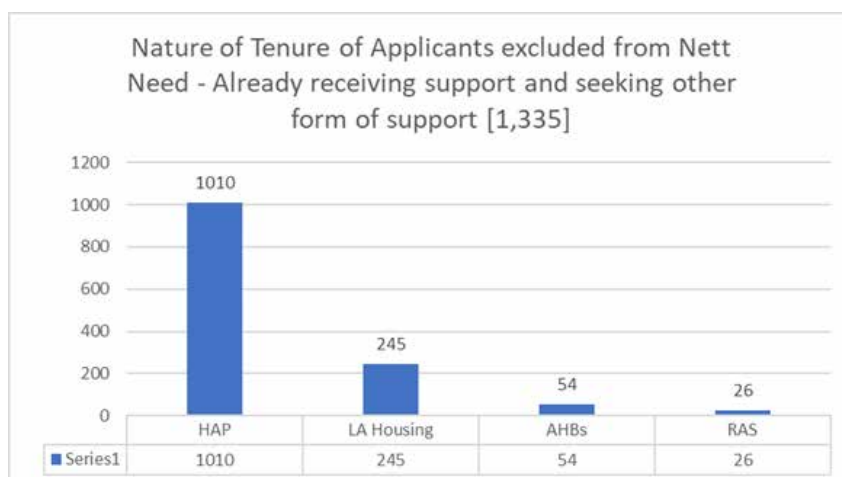
availability of the grant application online portal will greatly reduce paperwork, improve the speed of grant processing, and allow applicants to see the progress of their grant throughout our approval process.

Social Housing Demand

The highest demand throughout the county remains for 1 and 2-bedroomed properties. There are 2,195 applicant households (78%) who have a requirement for this property type.

Current Housing need as of 23/06/2025

Total Households on List	2,809
Transfer Applicants (see below)	1,335
Net Need	1,474



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	989	185	68	1242
SHANNON	170	34	13	217
CLARECASTLE	151	29	7	187
INAGH/ENNISTYMON/LAHINCH	119	21	7	147
KILRUSH	90	21	7	118
FEAKLE/SCARIFF/WHITEGATE	79	24	3	106
MEELICK/PARTEEN/WESTBURY	65	25	11	101
COROFIN/RUAN	67	16	1	84
MILTOWN MALBAY/MULLAGH/QUILTY	69	10	1	80
KILKEE/CROSS/CARRIGAHOLT	55	15	2	72
NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS	54	13	2	69
KILLALOE	48	15	2	65
LISDOONVARNA/BALLYVAUGHAN	43	9	3	55
SIXMILEBRIDGE	36	13	4	53
COORACLARE/DOONBEG	37	9	6	52

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

TULLA/KILKISHEN/BROADFORD	31	7	1	39
CLONLARA	31	7	1	39
KILDYSART/BALLYNACALLY	21	5	3	29
QUIN	17	4	2	23
KILMIHIL	9	4	2	15
KILMALEY	10	1		11
KILFENORA	4	1		5
Grand Total	2,195	468	146	2,809

Newly Qualified Applicants



Housing Allocations

Clare County Council continues to work with the Approved Housing Bodies in relation to the delivery of social housing. In this regard recently advertised on the CBL website was 16 units all 3 bedroomed two storey houses which are being delivered by Tuath Housing located at Loughville, Lahinch Road Ennis. This is the final phase of this development which attracted 224 expressions of interest. This is the first social housing development that Tuath has delivered in Ennis and is delivered via CALF funding.

Garran Cathaigh Kilrush

The Allocation process in relation to the new social housing development situated at Garran Cathaigh, Leadmore West, Kilrush is completed. Pre tenancy meetings were held with the new tenants on 18th June last and on that day the new tenants received the keys to their new homes. This development comprises 14 units made up 8 no 3 bedroomed houses and 6 no 2 bedroomed bungalows.

In allocating the bungalows our goal was to meet the housing needs of disabled people locally and in this regard, we worked closed with the HSE in allocating these units.



Claire Clarke accepting the keys to her new home from Anne O Dea Housing Allocations Team and Joan Leahy Account Manager



Daniel Kalnins and Alison Kalnina and family receiving the keys to their new home from Joan Leahy Account Manager and Marie Dillon Estate Manager



Tenant Purchase Incremental Scheme

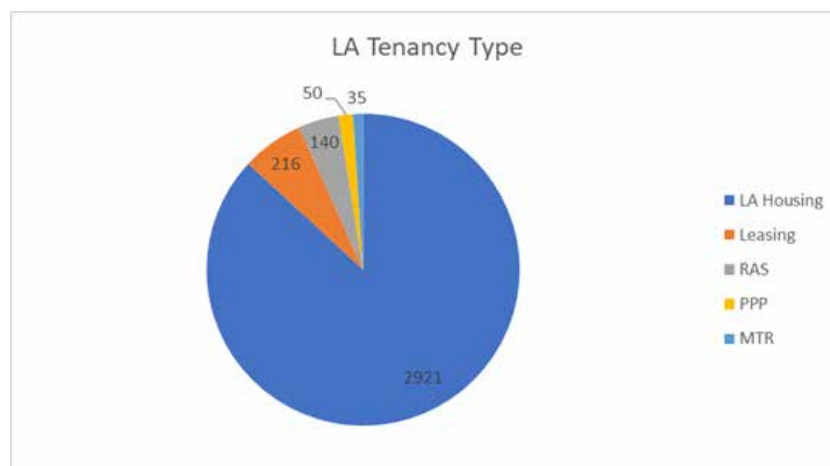
There remains significant interest in the LA Tenant Purchase Incremental Scheme. We currently have 27 open cases at various stages of the process. The sale of seven properties under the tenant purchase scheme completed in 2024. Three properties have been sold to date in 2025. It is expected that more sales will be completed in Q3 of 2025.

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

Housing Tenancies:

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

23rd June, 2025			
MD	Allocated	Occupied	Total
Ennis MD	8	1,289	1,297
Killaloe MD	0	372	372
Shannon MD	1	748	749
West Clare MD	5	960	965
Grand Total	14	3,369	3,383



There are 140 RAS tenancies and 216 lease tenancies (127 long-term and 89 short-term leases). There are 1,012 HAP tenancies. Approved Housing Bodies are providing approximately 1,044 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	4	6	1	0	11
Derelict properties	0	0	0	0	0
Projects	6	5	1	1	13
Casual vacancies	25	22	13	9	69
TOTAL	35	33	15	10	93

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	306
Referrals to TSS (including Tulsa)	15
Tenancy Notifications/Warnings issued	25
Abandonment Notices issued	3
Keys collected from Casual Vacancies	28
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, facilitates the inspection of local authority sites, arranges specific meetings with tenants, as well as engaging with local communities.

The team recently led the establishment of Gauras Residents Group, with support from the Rural and Community Development Officer. The group will serve residents from three social housing estates, providing a shared platform to raise concerns, exchange ideas and work together to build a strong, more connected, and sustainable community. Residents are encouraged to get involved, contribute their perspectives and help shape a positive future

Private Rented inspections:

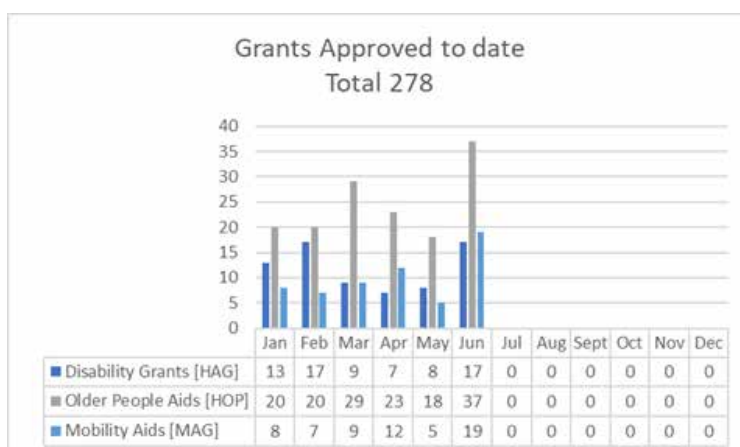
Inspections are carried out on HAP, Private Rented, RAS and Leased properties, as well as in response to complaints that are received. The team continue to follow up where properties do not meet the minimum rented standards and have inspected 502 properties to date in June.

Housing Grants:

A big demand continues to exist for the **Housing Adaptation Grant for Older People and Disabled People**. There are 278 grants approved to date this year to a value of over €2m as shown below. Details of these grants is 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 72 Local Authority Home Loans Approved in Principle. Updated figures are outlined as follows:



Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Loan

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

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

3 LAPR Applications have been received to date.

The Homeless Action Team

The level of complex cases presenting to the Homeless Action Team in Clare has continued to increase. Further demands are being placed on the Team to provide emergency accommodation in a safe and appropriate manner.

The number of presentations continue to rise where individuals and households are experiencing difficulties and concerns around hospital discharges, prison releases, family or relationship breakdown, addiction or mental health concerns and dual diagnosis.

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

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

Homeless Services [Homeless Action Team HAT]

Clare Homeless Action team continues to engage with all

necessary stakeholders, service providers and local supports to adopt a collaborative approach to the tackling of Homelessness.

Emergency Accommodation Status as of 06th June 2025

	Families	Adults	Dependents	Providers
Laurel Lodge	0	19	0	1
Laurel Lodge (apts)	0	5	0	1
Cusack Lodge	5	7	14	1
Westbrook	0	18	0	1
Ashford Court	12	16	14	1
Clann Nua	0	12	0	1
EA Families	16	30	35	8
EA Individuals	0	25	0	7
TOTAL	33	132	63	21

Exits from Homeless Services:

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

During the period 03/05/2025 to 06/06/2025 the following exited from homelessness:

Moved to A.H.B Housing	4
Moved to Temp. Accommodation	0
Admitted to hospital	1
Excluded	7
Residential Treatment	0
Tenancy LA	0
Returned to family/friends	0
Prevention Tenancies	0
Other	0

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).

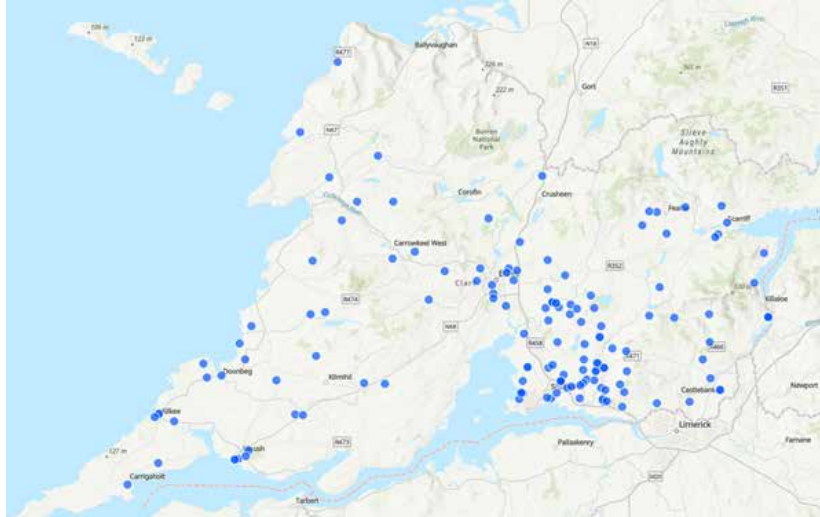
CCC are currently engaged with other developers, that have expressed interest in affordable housing, for potential inclusion on the scheme. There is an online information portal at <https://affordablehomes.ie/> providing general information to the public with regards to affordable housing.

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



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

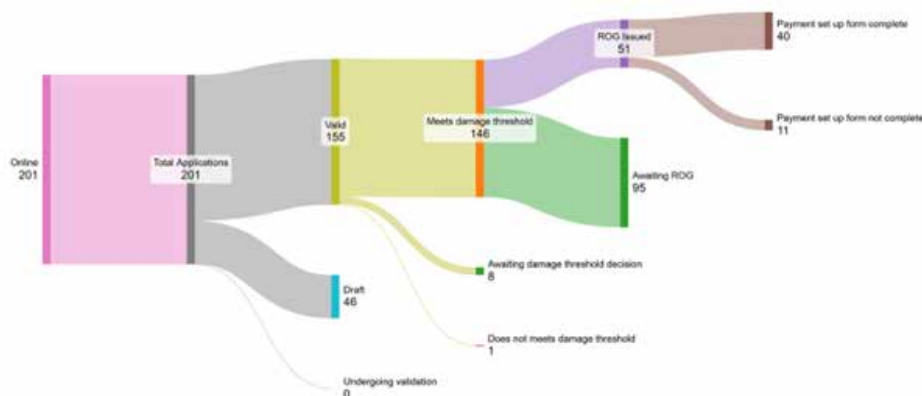
CCC continue to administer and validate applications since the commencement of the scheme via the online portal. CCC are

engaging with the Housing Agency and the DHLGH and continue to carry out all associated duties.

To date, Clare County Council have issued 51 Remedial Option Grants, with the total value of €15.37m awarded and are awaiting input from the Housing Agency to further process 95 applications with grant amounts to follow.

NSAI (National Standards Authority of Ireland), are carrying out a review of the current I.S.465 standard of deleterious materials on behalf of the DHLGH, which is out for public consultation currently until the 11th July 2025.

DCB Application Flow Chart



CCC carried out information evenings on 31st March last in Shannon and 6th May in Ennis. The focus of these evenings was orientated towards applicants who have received their grant option. These events were attended to capacity with positive feedback from attendees.

CCC intend to hold further information evenings and walk in clinics in various locations in 2025, to target people with limited digital resources and/or capabilities, to assist them further in making an application and other elements of the DCB application process. Clare County Council continue to engage with the DHLGH to ensure social houses affected by DCB are included in a similar scheme.

Update on capital programme:

Direct build projects currently under construction include the Back Road project in Kilrush, the Doonbeg project, the Gort Road project, the Shallee Drive/Cloughleigh Road project and the Moore St. project. These projects are all progressing well. Other housing capital schemes are at varying stages of design and construction across the county.



Progress on Back Road, Kilrush housing development



Progress on Doonbeg housing development



Progress on Shallee/Cloughleigh housing development



Progress on Gort Road, Ennis housing development

Approved Housing Bodies

We continue to engage with the Approved Housing Body sector to deliver an ambitious housing programme. In June, 10 no. units in Phase 2 at Millbank Roslevan, Ennis was completed by Co-Operative Housing Ireland, (see photo image). This final Phase of the development consists of 3 no. 2-bed bungalows and 7 no. 3-bed semi-detached houses. We continue to support all AHBs through regular meetings with individual bodies that are involved in delivery. We also hold quarterly meetings of the AHB Forum and were delighted with the high turnout for the second quarterly meeting of this Forum held in-person during the month of June. There were numerous topics discussed with presentations from Inis Housing together with the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA), Approved Housing Body Regulatory Authority (AHBRA) and Irish Council for Social Housing (ICSH). The feedback was positive and further such meetings will be arranged periodically.



Completed 10 units at Millbank, Roslevan, Ennis by Co-Operative Housing Ireland - June 2025

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

SHIP Capital	No. approved	Current stage	Start Date	Completion Date
Clarehill Clarecastle	13	Completed - T. Key Construction Stage - T. Key	Q3 2023	Q1 2025 (10) Q3 2025 (3)
Garrán Cathaigh, Leadmore Kilrush	14	Completed - T. Key	Q2 2024	Q2 2025
Main Street Clarecastle	7	Completed - T. Key	Q2 2024	Q1 2025
Béal an Inbhir, Kilrush	28	Construction Stage - T. Key	Q2 2024	Q3 2025
Main Street Clarecastle	1	Construction Stage	Q1 2024	Q3 2025
Circular Road Ennistymon	4	Construction Stage - T. Key	Q2 2024	Q3 2025
38 St Patrick's Terrace, Kilrush	1	Under Review	Q3 2025	2026
Gort Rd. Ennis	20	Construction Stage	Q3 2024	Q4 2025
Doonbeg Lands	8	Construction Stage	Q4 2024	Q1 2026
Shallee Drive / Cloughleigh Rd	5	Construction Stage	Q1 2025	Q1 2026
Back Road, Kilrush	12	Construction Stage	Q1 2025	Q2 2026
Moore Street, Kilrush	16	Construction Stage	Q3 2025	Q4 2026
Drumcliff Rd, Ennis	26	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH.	-	-
R2 Lands Lisdoonvarna	25	Stage 1 approved by DHLGH	Q1 2026	Q2 2027
Subtotal	180			
Approved Housing Body Projects	No. approved	Current stage	Start Date	Completion Date
Acha Bhile, Lahinch Rd., Ennis (Cluid Hsg. Assoc.) CALF Turnkey	10 (Phase 3)	Completed	Q1 2024	Q1 2025
Cappahard, Ennis (Co-Operative Housing Ireland) CALF Turnkey	13 (Phase 2)	Completed	Q1 2024	Q2 2025
Millbank, Roslevan, Ennis (Co-Operative Hsg. Ireland) CALF Turnkey	10 (Phase 2)	Completed (Sale closed on 09/06/2025)	Q2 2024	Q2 2025
Loughville, Ennis (Tuath Housing) CALF Turnkey	34	Completed: Phase 2 - 18 units Under construction: Phase 3 - 12 units	Q2 2024 Q3 2024	Q2 2025 Q3 2025
Market Street, Ennis (Co-Operative Hsg. Ireland) CALF Turnkey	14	Under construction	Q3 2023	Q3 2025
Ballyminogue, Scarriff Inis Housing CALF Turnkey	5	Under construction	Q2 2024	Q3 2025
Acha Bhile, Ennis (Banner Hsg. Assoc.) CAS Turnkey	4	At construction stage	Q2 2025	Q1 2026
63 Shannon Heights, Kilrush (Sophia Hsg. Assoc.) CAS Renewal Const.)	1	At procurement stage	Q4 2025	Q4 2026
71 Shannon Heights, Kilrush (Sophia Hsg. Assoc.) CAS Renewal Const.)	1	At procurement stage	Q4 2025	Q4 2026
Bruachlan, Westbury (Cooperative Hsg. Ireland) CALF Construction	22	At procurement stage for contractor	Q4 2025	Q4 2026
Subtotal	114			
Total	294			

Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

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

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



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

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

UKRAINIAN SERVICES TEAM

Recent CSO figures show there were 451 Temporary Protections granted nationally in the past month with an average of 16 granted per day. There are currently 5,048 Ukrainian Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP's) living in County Clare, representing a decrease of 13 people in the County compared to figures released previously. There are 1211 people accommodated in 25 multi-occupancy facilities located throughout the County - this reflects a decrease of 32 people compared to previous figures. The remaining people are accommodated in residential settings, in formal hosted arrangements, through the Irish Red Cross and Clare County Council's Offer-a-Home scheme. To date our Matching & Relationship Manager has facilitated the accommodation of 463 people that were originally living in hotel and multi-occupancy facilities.

The Government recently announced its decision on the Accommodation Recognition Payment (ARP) and has decided to reduce the payment from €800 to €600 from June 2025 onwards. As the payment is payable monthly in arrears, the first payment at the reduced rate will be received by hosts on 8th July 2025.

The following is an outline of some of the main options homeowners might be considering in light of the forthcoming changes:

1. **Continue staying under the Offer a Home Scheme, regardless of changes to the payment.**
2. **Continue staying under the Offer a Home Scheme, but seek an additional financial contribution from the guest to 'top-up' the ARP when the current rate of ARP is reduced.**

The [legislation on ARP](#) states that an additional financial contribution from the guest, **beyond** utilities, may be considered a rental agreement, regardless of whether this was intentional or not on the part of the host. Simply, its illegal to top up the ARP payment if its not the payment for the utilities. It's also illegal to have a rental agreement and claim the Accommodation Recognition Payment. Further information on the ARP can be accessed at:

gov.ie - Accommodation Recognition Payment Scheme: Your questions answered

3. **Continue in the existing living arrangements but transition into a rental agreement.**
 - The property will have to be withdrawn from the Offer a Home Scheme;
 - **The property must be registered with the RTB (contact the RTB for advice on the specific arrangement).**
 - Check with Revenue and/or Intreo to determine whether

there are tax implications or impacts to any social welfare entitlements (income will be taxed). Rental income is taxable but expenses might get some relief (e.g. [RPIRO Income relief](#)).

- Any agreement is discussed openly with everyone involved, is put in writing and has a clear end date (the sample of the Residential tenancy agreement can be found at the following link: [Residential Tenancy Agreement Template | Residential Tenancies Board](#))
- Consider what is a fair amount of money - this will vary based on the individual situation and guests' circumstances.
- The tenant (formerly guest) may be able to apply for [Rent Supplement](#) or [Renters Tax Credit](#) to help with the cost of rent.
- Ukrainians in Ireland are currently not eligible for social

housing schemes like Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) as they do not have 'a legal right to remain in the state on a long-term basis'.

4. End the current hosting agreement, and give your guests notice to find alternative accommodation.

If the time has come to end the household participation in the Offer a Home Scheme, that is absolutely understandable. The Offer a Home team will assist and provide as much help as we can.

For any additional questions regarding the Offer a Home Scheme, please contact the team on our email address at: offerahome@clarecoco.ie

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

On 2nd June last the integration team were delighted to collaborate with the Northwest Clare Family Resource & CLDC on hosting the Ballyvaughan Street Feast, a very enjoyable day was had by all with new connections and friendships forged.

Refugee Week Events

The integration team attended the anti-racism training session which was a follow-up training session from those delivered to Local Authority staff in Limerick, Dublin, Galway and Cork under the SALAAM. This innovative project has been created in collaboration with the Irish Network Against Racism (INAR), the University of Limerick, Doras, AMAL Women's Network and is funded to progress the work of the National Action Plan

Against Racism. It is designed to upskill Local Authority staff and to create conversations about anti-racism and the Public Sector Duty, while also building the capacity of minority ethnic leaders to deliver training.

On 17th June the integration team were delighted to collaborate with the East Clare Community Cooperative for the hosting of the foreign land photography exhibition in the Scariff Library, this event was to celebrate refugee week. This year's theme community as a superpower was beautifully reflected throughout the event. The music was provided by the very talented East Clare Community Choir.



There are currently 992 International Protection Applicants accommodated in 12 Centres across County Clare.



There are 1186 Ukrainian Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection accommodated in 25 Multi Occupancy accommodation Centres throughout the County.



On 20th June the integration team joined forces with the East Clare Community Co-operative and CLDC for the Foreign Land Photography Exhibition. Jazz music was provided by the Chalumeau Quartet and homemade pizza which was prepared by the Co-Operative. A beautiful evening celebration, art, connection and community was enjoyed by all. Photo to follow



On 21st June the integration team also collaborated with CISC and CLDC to celebrate Refugee Day. This year's theme community as a superpower truly shone through during a fun, family-filled day of connection, laughter, music and celebration.

SPORTS & RECREATION



Active Ennis Sports & Leisure Facilities

Footfalls for Active Ennis Leisure Complex & Lees Road May 2025

Footfalls for May in the Active Ennis Leisure Complex were lower compared to the previous April, this may be due to weather conditions, May 2025 saw unseasonable warm weather compared to the previous year which had a lot of wet weather. Lee's Road entries was also down compared to 2024.

	Total May 2025	Previous year (May 2024)	Average per day May 2025	Average per day May 2024
Active Ennis	12,686	20,823(↓40%)	672	698 (↓40%)
Lees road	18,576	22,018(↓26%)	674	734(↓26%)

School Swim Lessons ending

School Swim lessons ended in June for this term and will recommence in September. Our lessons cater to over 900 children along with 16 schools. These lessons have a huge demand and are very well received.



Lee's Road Community games

John O'Sullivan Park, Lees Road hosted Hundreds of children from across Clare who took part in the St. Francis Credit Union Clare Community Games Annual County Athletic Finals on Sunday June 1st. Athletes from all areas around Clare competed in a packed day of track and field events, including relays, sprints, long-distance races, and throwing competitions. The finals drew large crowds of proud parents, mentors, and supporters, all cheering on the next generation of sporting talent. The event began with a colourful opening parade.

Tim Smythe Park Relay for Life

Relay for Life Ennis hosted their yearly event inviting all cancer survivors and those in treatment to attend the Cancer Survivors' Reception and the Survivors Lap of Honor. Over €50,00 has been raised as of Sunday evening with all funds yet to be counted.

The survivors' lap is an inspirational start to the event where cancer survivors of all ages are invited to begin the Relay event by walking the first lap of the course, cheered on by their family, friends and carers plus teams from the community. Relay for Life Ennis was held on the 21st of June in Active Ennis Tim Smythe Park.



Healthy Clare Newsletter

We issued a blog post and an infographic to the Healthy Clare Newsletter for June, The blog post was "Benefits of exercise for heart health" and the infographic was "Heart healthy food choices".



Men's Health Event

The healthy Clare Ireland Men's Health event took place at the Buttermarket Building, Drumbiggle. It was a fantastic morning dedicated to encouraging men in our community to take important steps toward a healthier, happier future. While spaces were limited, the turnout reflected the strong interest and commitment to making men's health a priority. Three members of our team were speakers at the event. Our general manager Tim Forde spoke about cancer awareness and prevention, our pool manager John Carey spoke about men's health and physical activity and our gym manager Jamie Fitzgibbon spoke about men's health and healthy eating.

During Men's Health Week, we stood shoulder to shoulder in support of one another - showing up, lifting each other up, and putting health at the forefront. The event was a true testament to what we can achieve when we come together as a community.



Membership Specials

We launched a special membership offer for the summer months with access to our Gym and Pool for 3 months. This promotion is designed to provide an affordable option for individuals seeking to improve their fitness levels, maintain their current regimen or simply enjoy our leisure services. It is expected this offer will increase our membership numbers as well as enhance the sense of community within our Leisure Complex. We also plan on launching a Family Membership in July to encourage families to engage in physical activities together promoting a healthy and active lifestyle.



Mural in Tim Smythe Park

The Ennis Voices for Autism did a Mural in Tim Smythe Park during the month of July. This wonderful piece of work encompasses aspect of summer fun. Ennis Voices for Autism (EVA) is a voluntary group for families of children with Autism.



www.activeennis.ie | www.activekilrush.ie

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



General Updates

- **Bike Week** was successfully held across County Clare, with over 26 events delivered throughout the week. Bike skills workshops were facilitated in Mullagh, Shragh, Labasheeda, Fanore, and Ennis CBS. Ennis CBS also received media coverage from Virgin Media, who featured the event in a news bulletin. CSP staff supported the workshop delivery in the afternoon session. Free servicing was provided at the various locations and Leisure cycles were organised in Kilfenora, Spanish Point, and Carrigaholt to Loophead Lighthouse. Bike Bingo, An interactive, family-friendly event designed to encourage cycling and exploration in the local community. Participants received bingo-style cards with tasks or locations related to cycling (e.g., "Ride past a school," "Cycle to a local café"). A Prize was awarded for completed cards, promoting active travel in a fun and engaging way. Cyclists were able attend any of the

below local cafés for a free Tea/Coffee over the week in Killaloe (Bless Café) and New Market (The Ros Café).



- **Walking Programme - Sixmilebridge** - Continued weekly throughout May, attracting over 20 women, primarily aged 60+. Each session included a structured warm-up and cool-down, with walking distances ranging between 3-5KM.
- **Our ladies Kayaking programme** took place during May with Shannon Paddlers. 8 ladies took part in the beginner's programme and the feedback was hugely positive. The programme consisted of 3 hours of both practical and theory based sessions including the basics of kayaking and water safety over the course of 5 weeks.
- **Youth Programme Development** - Initial engagement has begun with Shannon Jets Basketball Club and Shannon Golf Club to explore potential youth programmes for June.
- **Clubs received their monthly newsletter** this month which included details of safeguarding, the small club grant scheme and the ongoing club collaboration events that have ran in May along with the upcoming June events. Also included in the newsletter was the active club's section which highlighted partnering clubs that run community based programmes. The clubs

mentioned were West Coast Surf Club, Spanish Point Golf Club along with Kilkee Waterworld for their ongoing work with disability and inclusion programmes.

- **Our Women in Sport lady's beginners golf programme** took place over the month of May. Over 30 ladies took part in the introductory programme. We will continue to work with both clubs after the programme finishes in June to help them retain the ladies through things like extra lessons and additional funding towards a reduction in membership costs.



NORTH CLARE LEA

A cross-directorate team from Clare County Council delivered a presentation highlighting the achievements to date under the North Clare Traffic and Transport Plan. The event, coordinated by the Municipal District, took place at the Falls Hotel and featured contributions from the Social Development, Physical Development, Economic Development, and Tourism Development Directorates. Representatives from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and Fáilte Ireland were also in attendance.



Roads Programme

Under the Roads Programme, surface dressing works were successfully completed in Magherabeg, Lahinch, contributing to enhanced road durability and improved driving conditions in the area. Concurrently, significant road repair works were undertaken in Kilshanny to address surface degradation and ensure safer access for local residents, businesses, and visitors. These works form part of Clare County Council's ongoing commitment to maintaining and improving regional transport infrastructure.



Line Marking

Line marking works were completed at various locations across the district, enhancing road safety, traffic flow, and overall visibility for motorists and pedestrians alike.



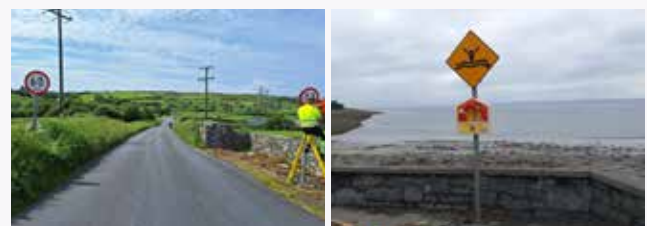
New Conference Facility

A new video conferencing facility has recently been installed at the Ennistymon Area Office, with support from the Property Management Section. This enhancement will improve communication and collaboration across departments, enabling more efficient remote meetings and reducing the need for travel.



Ongoing Works

Signage installation and general repair works were carried out at multiple locations within the district to improve navigational clarity, safety, and the overall quality of local infrastructure. These efforts contribute to Clare County Council's ongoing commitment to enhancing the public realm and supporting efficient transportation networks. Pictured below are examples of signage installations in Corofin and Flaggy Shore. Works also included speed limit sign replacements in Corofin, Geo Park signage replacement and repairs, as well as the installation of bollards to improve traffic management and pedestrian safety.



TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Earth Check Certification - Evening of Celebration, 9th June



In recognition of their contribution to-date on Clare's journey to become 'A Globally Renowned Sustainable & Vibrant Destination' local councillors and members of the Clare Destination Green Team were invited to an evening of celebration, 9th June, to celebrate the occasion of County Clare being assessed as meeting Silver Certification of the Earth Check Destination Standard. In the presence of Nigel Russell on behalf of Earth Check and Dr John Carthy ATU Sligo. This achievement would not have been possible without the hard work, passion, and dedication of so many across our community.

Led by the County Clare GSTC Destination Green Team (established in 2023), Clare's sustainability journey brought together local authority staff, tourism agencies, businesses, conservation bodies, community leaders, state agencies, and the sustainable tourism experts at ATU Sligo.

While the county is just now receiving global recognition as a sustainable destination, sustainability has long been part of Clare's ethos. The Geopark and businesses in North Clare have long worked towards sustainable tourism, setting an example for the rest of the county and playing a key role in securing international recognition for Clare's destination management efforts.

Thank you to everyone who helped Clare achieve this remarkable goal. Your commitment ensures that Clare remains both a vibrant and welcoming place, while also looking to better protect our environment and increase the benefits of tourism across all our communities. Special thanks to the tireless efforts of the Clare Tourism Advisory Forum, our local tourism networks, and so many others who believe in Clare's sustainable future.

This is just the beginning of a proud and ongoing journey towards a more sustainable future for Clare. Third-party verification

brings transparency to the process, and this certification is a key milestone on the path to our 2030 vision: making Clare a globally recognised, sustainable and vibrant destination.



Site Visit to Inis Cealtra



The Chief Executive, Management Team and Tourism recently went on a site visit to Inis Cealtra.

Burren & Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark

Geopark Academy 2025



James Organ speaking about the birds in the Corofin Wetlands.

The 3rd Geopark Academy at the Burren College of Art was a great success with 12 speakers contributing to a day of recent research in the Burren across a diverse range of topics. We had speakers from University of Galway, NPWS, Lisdoonvarna Secondary School and Kilnaboy, as well as the Geopark geologist, deliver engaging 30 minute talks on landscape, birds, spiders, lichens, placenames, BT Young Scientists and fossils to highlight again the importance of the Burren as a place of learning.

Burren Centre 50th celebration talk



Geopark geologist at the Burren Centre Kilfenora describing the new and unusual fossil discoveries from the Burren.

The Geopark geologist Dr. Eamon Doyle contributed to the Burren Centre 50th anniversary celebrations programme of lectures in Kilfenora by talking about many of the new and curious fossils that have been found in the Geopark in recent years, including fossil plants and sharks and new species not known from anywhere else in the world.

Visit Clare

Visit Clare Marketing and Promotion

Advert Promotions:



Visit Clare advert promotions, online and print, continue over the summer period, to promote County Clare as a top tourist destination.

Visit Clare Social Media:

Weekly spotlight posts continue across the Visit Clare social media platforms to promote local tourism business, be they, Accommodation, Activities, Dining or Events providers, including, a welcome to new businesses to the website as well as continuing to highlight our local natural attractions.

90-day insights:

Posts: 360 new posts.

Reactions: 6,198.

Facebook: ↑ 14,222 Followers.

X: ↑ 7,034.

Instagram: ↑ 7,014 Followers.

LinkedIn: ↑ 654 Followers.

Funday Sundays - Summer promotion, get ready to experience the very best of County Clare

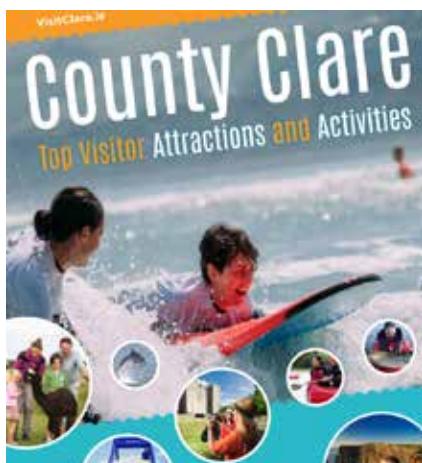


The Tourism Department has teamed up with top local activity and attraction providers to promote our wonderful County during the Summer period.

Each month we are spotlighting local activities and attractions with top prizes on offer, to promote all the County has to offer.

The month of June, we're giving the chance to win an incredible family prize package. Imagine exploring the wonders of the **Western Loop** (The Cliffs of Moher Experience, Vandeleur Walled Gardens & Visitor Experience, and Loop Head Lighthouse), stepping back in time at **Bunratty Castle & Folk Park**, and discovering the ancient history of **Craggaunowen Castle & Crannóg** with family day passes for all 5 sites. Plus, a fantastic family night's stay at the **Park Inn by Radisson, Shannon Airport**, complete with a **delicious dinner**, and challenge each other to a fun round of mini golf with 18Putts and foot golf at **Munster Footgolf**! www.VisitClare.ie/Sundays

County Clare - Top Visitor Attractions and Activities Guide



The Tourism Department has collaborated with 100 Clare Attraction and Activity providers to produce a guide to showcase Clare's top visitor experiences.

This guide will be used at key trade and consumer promotions both international and local, offering free profiling for featured businesses.

Clare Twinning Committee

The Clare Twinning Committee members held their AGM on Monday, 9th June.

Cllr Tony O'Brien outgoing Chair expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the members of the Twinning Committee and the Tourism Department for their support during his tenure as Chair. He acknowledged the new structures and process put in place to streamline both the work of this Committee and the local Twinning Committees. Cllr Mary Howard is the incoming Chair, and Cllr Antoinette Baker Bashua the incoming vice-Chair.

Broadband and Digital

Generative AI Training Delivered in Ennis and Ennistymon Digital Hubs



As part of our commitment to fostering digital skills across County Clare, DigiClare, in collaboration with Microsoft and FIT - The Tech Talent Pipeline, recently delivered a free training programme focused on Generative AI. The sessions were held in our Ennis Hub on Thursday, June 12th, and in the Ennistymon Hub on Friday, June 13th.

Participants had the opportunity to earn a Career Essentials Certificate in Generative AI, a recognised credential that required the successful completion of an exam at the end of the session. This ensured that attendees not only engaged with the material but also demonstrated their understanding of key concepts.

The training covered:

- Core principles of generative AI models
- Ethical considerations in the use of AI technologies

- The broader impact of generative AI tools on society and the workplace

The programme was met with strong interest and enthusiastic participation. By offering this training, DigiClare is helping more people access valuable learning opportunities and gain the skills they need to keep up with today's fast-changing digital world.

The Clare Collection

Inis Cealtra Visitor Experience Opens



A major milestone was reached in East Clare's most ambitious tourism development to date, with the opening of the new Inis Cealtra Visitor Experience in Mountshannon this month. Located in the heart of the village and overlooking Mountshannon Harbour and Lough Derg, the centre is housed in the Old Rectory, a period residence dating back to 1905. The historic building has been carefully restored, repurposed, and extended to serve as a visitor and interpretative hub for Inis Cealtra, one of Ireland's most significant ecclesiastical heritage sites.

Developed by Clare County Council as part of The Clare Collection portfolio of visitor attractions, it features a modern exhibition space showcasing local stories and the heritage of Inis Cealtra, a reception area, a first-floor café offering panoramic views of Lough Derg, and landscaped gardens. Displays explore Early Medieval pilgrimage, local traditions, the lives of Inis Cealtra's former inhabitants, and the island's lasting cultural significance.

Open 7 days per week from June 30th to September 14th and weekend only until October 26th, visitors can enjoy complimentary admission to the Inis Cealtra Visitor Experience for the 2025 tourism season.

For more information visit www.iniscealtra.ie



Fossetts Circus Rolls Up at Bunratty Castle & Folk Park

The award-winning Fossett's Circus made a spectacular return to Bunratty Castle and Folk Park this June delighting visitors and schools alike. Set against the stunning backdrop of Bunratty Castle, this event is one of the highlights of the attraction's annual calendar of events.

As Ireland's longest running circus, Fossett's Circus is renowned for its family-friendly entertainment and amazing shows. With a long history and a dedication to quality, Fossett's Circus never fails to enthral audiences and this year was no different in Bunratty with over 2500 coming to see the event during its recent visit to the park. As always, the Fossett's team brought their dazzling array of performances to delight audiences of all ages, from world-class jugglers and aerial acrobats to audacious daredevils.

Inaugural Bark in the Park is a roaring success at Bunratty Castle & Folk Park



Dog lovers across the County converged on Bunratty Castle and Folk Park this June as the visitor attraction held its first-ever Bark in the Park, Fun Dog Show event on Sunday, June 8th. Ireland's newest dog show offered a jam packed programme of light-hearted competition as canines of all shapes, sizes, and temperaments took centre stage at the County Clare visitor attraction. The inaugural event saw dogs compete across 16 categories, with prizes for the Smallest Dog, Best Biscuit Catcher, Most Handsome Dog, Waggiest Tail, Veteran Dog, and Best Fancy Dress, among others.

Visitors also had the opportunity to meet representatives from the **Clare branch of Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind**, who shared stories of how their dogs support people with visual

impairments and families of children with autism. **Irish Dogs for the Disabled** were also in attendance to showcase their work in providing trained assistance dogs to people with physical disabilities.

The Overall Winner on the Day went to “Jovi” and his owner, John McNamara who took away the Bunratty Bark in the Park Perpetual trophy

New Corn Barn Restaurant Opens its doors at Bunratty Castle and Folk Park.



This June the brand new, The Corn Barn Restaurant, opened its doors at Bunratty Castle and Folk Park. Nestled within the grounds of the folk park, this new restaurant will be serving fresh, wholesome dishes that showcase the best of local produce and culinary traditions.

With a stunning new look, warm lighting, and a welcoming atmosphere, the Corn Barn Restaurant is set to become a favourite stop for visitors to the park - a place to relax, enjoy a delicious meal, and soak up the heritage of this unique setting. Open daily from 9AM to 5:30PM.

Cliffs Summer Sessions



Local trad musicians from North Clare playing for the Summer Sessions

In June, the Cliffs Summer Sessions kicked off! Running every Monday evening during the summer from 6.30 - 7.30, visitors are invited to an evening of live traditional music with local

musicians set against the backdrop of Ireland’s most iconic landmark. Taking place in the Cliffs View Café, visitors will also enjoy a menu that serves up the best of local and Irish fare, including Beef & Guinness Stew and Traditional Fish & Chips. Evening visits to The Cliffs are special... with fewer people, the safe, paved pathways can be enjoyed at a more leisurely pace. The evening light, with the sounds of the sea, the birds and the skies make it a wonderful time to visit.

To further enhance evening visits, the Craft & Gift Store has late evening opening during the summer months and will facilitate a one-to-one personal shopping experience when booked in advance - an ideal way to choose the perfect gifts to bring home! Shoppers will also learn more about the local suppliers and the family-run offerings that reflect the heart of the local community.

New & improved Photo Experience



Laurie Skelton and Sharon Malone try out the new Photo Experience

A new and improved Photo Experience at The Cliffs was launched this month. No matter what the weather, visitors can still capture the magic of The Cliffs of Moher! Outside, there is an on site photographer who will capture stunning natural shots with the real backdrop. On those not-so-perfect days, step inside and strike a pose in front of the green screen, where you can choose your own background! The perfect shot every time!

The iconic O’Brien’s Tower turns 190 years old!

O’Brien’s Tower, built by Cornelius O’Brien in 1835, turns 190 years old this year. Built as a folly to entertain his friends, the Tower still stands proud and strong, watching over the Cliffs. In preparation for this big birthday, some renovation work was carried out internally earlier this year, including treating for mould and a fresh coat of paint - the tower needs to be looking it’s best for the celebrations!

On Saturday, June 21, there was an open invitation to all, but in particular former staff of the Tower and anyone with the O’Brien surname to come join in the celebrations. It was a lovely evening. Jessie from JJ Corry Whiskey made gorgeous Irish Coffees for the guests with their own whiskey blended in nearby Cooraclare. JJ Corry currently has barrels of their whiskey maturing in O’Brien’s Tower.

Guests were treated to cupcakes and kombucha and also got to enjoy a Cliffs of Moher Virtual Reality experience within the



Mike Marron, Melanie Lennon, Siobhan McNulty and Niamh O'Reilly join in the 190th celebrations at O'Brien's Tower

The Burren & Cliffs Explorer



The hop on, hop off shuttle bus has become a familiar site on

the roads around North Clare! The free service has proven to be very popular, with the numbers choosing to leave their cars and hop on the bus increasing week on week since its launch on May 1.

Limerick Sings Outdoor Choir at The Cliffs

Visitors to the Cliffs of Moher on Saturday, June 7th, were treated to a wonderful outdoor rendition from the fabulous choir from the Limerick Sings International Choir Festival, who popped to North Clare for a visit.



The Limerick Sings Choir conducted by Bob Chilcott perform at The Cliffs of Moher

DIY SOS

Baz and the team from DIY SOS; The Big Build Ireland, who are currently working on a project in Clarecastle, visited the Cliffs in June as part of the programme.

KILRUSH LOCAL ELECTORAL AREA, WEST CLARE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Schedule of Municipal District Works 2025:

In the last month the West Clare MD continued delivery of the 2025 Schedule of MD Works.

We completed the Surface Dressing element of the Schedule.

Surface Dressing

We completed surface dressing in

- Annagh (near the school).
- Ballymackea.
- Kenturk.
- Mountscott.
- Moyglass.



We commenced the Road Restoration & Improvement (or RI) - road reconstruction and resurfacing - element of the Schedule.

Restoration Improvement Works.

We commenced RI works in

- Clooneylissaun.
- Corbally.
- Cusheen.
- Inchbeg.
- Kilcarroll.
- Lismuse.
- Lismulbreeda.
- Lissanair.



Miscellaneous Other Works:

We carried out footpath repair works in Ballynacally



Kilkee Cliff Walk:

We recently completed works to Kilkee Cliff Walk. On particular the steepest section was surfaced with a tar spray & road chippings finish to give better grip to walkers.



Retirement of Mrs. Joan Lyons:

Mrs. Joan Lyons recently retired from her position as School Warden at St. Senan's National School in Kilrush. Joan had given 29 years' service to the schoolchildren of Kilrush (*including her grandchildren*) and to Clare County Council. To mark the occasion Joan was presented with a bouquet of flowers in the boardroom of Kilrush Town Hall on 25th June. We wish her well on her retirement.



Recruitment Competitions June

Eligibility Exercises & Desktop Shortlisting

- Executive Planner
- Assistant Planner
- Assistant Scientist
- Health & Safety Officer

Interviews

- General Operative
- IS Analyst Cyber Security
- Apprentice Civil Engineering Technician
- Housing Dept Out of Hours on Call Service
- Canteen Attendant - Sporadic Cover

The following competitions were advertised:

- Executive Planner
- Assistant Planner
- Assistant Scientist
- Canteen Attendant Sporadic Cover
- Health & Safety Officer
- Communications Graduate
- Executive Architectural Conservation Officer
- Acting Senior Engineer
- Heavy Vehicle Mechanic
- Temporary Assistant Chief Fire Officer
- Traffic Litter Warden

TRAINING PROGRAMMES / WEBINARS / CONFERENCES/ INFORMATION SESSIONS

JUNE

- CoPilot & ChatGPT & Responsible AI in the Public Sector - LGMA Webinar
- EPA Water Conference 2025
- How to be Financially Well Webinar
- NSAI Excellence Through People Audit
- RCT & PSWT Training
- Retail Retreat 2025 (May)
- RSTG Conference 2025 (May)
- Securing Your Financial Future Webinar
- Transport Ireland 2025 Conference

Essential Skillz on-line Courses:

- Health & Safety Induction
- Slips, Trips & Falls

Health & Safety:

- Manual Handling

CBS COMMUNITY READERS 2025

- Due to the success of previous collaborations with Clare Co. Council, CBS Primary asked if staff of Clare Co. Council would be interested in volunteering for their annual Community Readers Event in 2025. We had a total of 10 staff from various sections reading to students in 2024 & all hope to volunteer again for 2025. The idea of the event is to show children the importance of reading and how anyone can be passionate about reading no matter what area they are working in.



Employee Wellbeing

- The Men's Health Event was very well attended by the public/male staff of Clare Co. Council on 12th June, just under 100 attended and lots of information was provided and shared during the morning.
- The June Wellbeing Focus update on the Clare County Council Wellbeing Hub was **Healthy Eating**. Healthy eating is a vital part of maintaining overall wellbeing. It lowers the risk of chronic conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, and obesity, while helping to strengthen the immune system and support a healthy weight. The information above can also be accessed on the mobile version of Clare County Council Wellbeing Hub.



PROCUREMENT

The following Clare County Council tender competitions were published on eTenders in the period from 22nd May to 30th June inclusive:

Tender Name	RFT ID	Response deadline	Procedure
Tender for the Provision of Residential Tenancies Board (RTB) Inspections for Clare County Council's Social Housing Stock	6013267	25/07/2025 16:00	Open
Request for Tenders for the supply of three (3) Access Control and Payment Mechanism (Contactless) Systems, with associated Maintenance Contracts, at three (3) PFG2 Water Sports Facility locations	6001800	05/08/2025 00:00	Open
Baile na mBann, Miltown Malbay, Co. Clare Waste Water Treatment Plant Service Maintenance Works	5994485	24/07/2025 16:00	Open
Expressions of Interest for Turnkey Housing Developments/ Housing Schemes and/or Land for the Provision of Social Housing to Clare County Council.	5990669	31/10/2025 16:00	Preliminary Market Consultation
Tulla Road Rapid Implementation Active Travel Scheme	5939606	21/07/2025 00:00	Open
Mobile Library Truck	5796431	30/06/2025 00:00	Open

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

TOWN CENTRE FIRST

THRIVE Ennis - Site Visit by Southern Regional Assembly
Clare County Council submitted a funding application under the THRIVE Strand 2 Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme to the Southern Regional Assembly in April 2025. This followed the approval by elected members in March 2025 of a Part VIII Planning application to repurpose and adaptively reuse the Cloister building in Ennis as a multi-use arts and community hub.

On 30th May 2025, the Town Centre First Department hosted a meeting and site visit from representatives of the Southern Regional Assembly. The Thrive Ennis Project Steering Group provided clarifications on the funding application and a follow-up site visit to The Cloister building to review proposals to turn the building into an arts/community hub.



Site visit by Southern Regional Assembly to The Cloister building, Ennis. L-R: Catherine Connaughton (Southern Regional Assembly), Sean Lenihan (Ennis MD), Joan Tarmey (Town Centre First Department), Rose Power (Southern Regional Assembly), Carmel Kirby (Director of Services, Economic Development Directorate), Niamh Wiley (Rural Development) and Siobhan O'Doherty (Town Centre First Department). Missing from photo Marie Lynch, Helen Quinn and Siobhan Mulcahy.

If successful, this funding will allow the project to move to the detailed planning stage. A decision on the funding application is expected to be announced by the Southern Regional Assembly in Quarter 4 of 2025.

Kilrush Town Centre First Plan

The Town Centre First Department continues its work with the Kilrush Town Team and the West Clare Municipal District

to advance the Town Centre First plan for Kilrush. Architects, funded by the Department of Rural & Community Development and commissioned by the Council, are leading extensive background data collection and have held a number of meetings with the West Clare MD elected members, Kilrush Town Team, cross-directorate Council staff and agencies to discuss and share updates on socio-economic baseline data, urban appraisal and to agree a vision for the town of Kilrush.

Several engagement workshops and sessions have been held to shape the plan. Two further meetings on 12th and 18th June were held with Kilrush Town Team. The project is on track, and it is expected that a draft plan will go on display before the end of July 2025.



Illustration of important values of Kilrush Town Team Supporting and empowering Town Teams

Lisdoonvarna Town Team:

Further work continues to assist and empower Town Teams across the county. On 21st June, Lisdoonvarna Town Team held an exciting community event entitled "Summer Solstice in The Park". A wide range of activities were laid on including music, arts and crafts events, yoga for children and adults. The event was supported through the Capacity Building for Town Teams under the Department of Rural & Community Development.



Tulla Town Team - Age-Friendly Walkability Study Undertaken

The Age-Friendly Team (Rural Development) in collaboration with the Town Centre First Department, Killaloe Municipal District and Tulla Town Team undertook an Age-Friendly Walkability Study of the Town on 17th June 2025. The purpose of the event is to highlight constraints to the community in walking around the town and to develop a report that could be implemented in the long-term to make some improvements to the town in the future.



Completing Walkability Audit Surveys in The Courthouse, Tulla after surveying four routes.



Walkability Audit Survey underway in Tulla.

FORWARD PLANNING

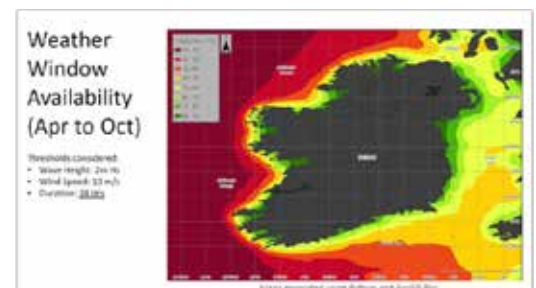
Marine Planning

At the European Maritime Day in Cork on May 22nd Minister Darragh O'Brien, T.D., Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment launched the consultation on Ireland's Marine Planning Policy Statement (MPPS). The public consultation period opened at 9am on Monday the 9th of June and has been widely advertised in the national press. A dedicated webpage has been set up with access to the draft MPPS (in Irish and English) as well as associated environmental statements for the public's consideration: www.gov.ie/MPPSConsultation

The MPPS Consultation period will be open until 5.30pm on the 7th of July 2025. Representations are invited to MSP@dcee.gov.ie. The Planning Department are currently reviewing the Marine Planning Policy Statement with a view to making a submission in July.

Strategic Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) for the Shannon Estuary The SIFP Steering Group held a meeting on the 10th of June in the offices of Clare County Council where the review of the National Development Plan was discussed in terms of the importance of aligning capital investment under the NDP with national, regional and local policy objectives and recognising the essential enabling function that Shannon Foynes Port Company, ESB Moneypoint and others operating within the Shannon Estuary have in delivering on the Renewable Energy sector and in particular the Offshore Floating Wind sector. Clare County Council as lead authority, are currently preparing a submission to the NDP review on behalf of the Steering Group members which will focus on the funding and infrastructure required to deliver on this critical sector within the Shannon Estuary.

Dr Ross O'Connell of MaREI (Centre for Marine and Renewable Energy) presented on the National Wet Storage Study for floating wind, which was a MaREI, ESB and SFPC collaboration. The presentation outlined how for large scale FLOW projects, it is anticipated that Wind Turbines and their associated sub-structure will need to be temporarily stored in port until deployment becomes possible during an appropriate weather window. Due to the harsh wave climate off Ireland's west coast, it will lead to a narrow weather window for FLOW installation. The study identified that there are potential areas at different depth thresholds where wet storage sites could potentially be located. Further studies will be necessary to establish this at a site specific level.



CONSERVATION AND BUILT HERITAGE

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	June 2025 up to & including 30/06/2025	Total (Valid) Year to date 2025
No. of Section 57 Declaration Requests received	1	14

HERITAGE

Inch Ringfort accepted into the Adopt a Monument Scheme
Inch Ringfort has been selected for inclusion in the Heritage Council's Adopt a Monument Programme. This innovative programme offers the Inch community group direct access to expertise, mentoring and support to help them to protect, preserve, and promote their local heritage. Just eight historic monuments across Ireland will benefit from this scheme and the resulting expertise and mentoring in 2025 and beyond.



Location of the Inch Ringfort adjacent to the primary school and community sports grounds.

Annual iCAN Clare groups network meeting

The Clonlara Heritage Group hosted the annual iCAN (Irish Community Archive Network) Clare groups network meeting in June. The Clare groups gave updates on their progress to date and discussed their plans for the year. The gathering was followed by a guided tour of eight heritage sites in the Clonlara area.



Clare iCAN group members from Clarecastle, Dysart/Ruan, Kilkeedy/Tubber, Shannon, Clonlara and Kilkee. Photograph by Angela Horsfall

Burrenbeo Archaeological Conference

The Clare County Council Community Archaeology Scheme was represented by the Community Archaeologist, Tori McMurren at the Burrenbeo Archaeological Conference at the Burren College of Art in Ballyvaughan on the 21st and 22nd of June. Clare County Council supported the event under the Clare Heritage Officer Heritage Council funding.



Clare County Council Community Archaeology Scheme stand at the Burrenbeo Archaeological Conference.

National Heritage Week 2025

Reminder to save the date for the National Heritage Week 2025 which will take place from August 16th-25th. All are invited to get involved under this year's theme: "Exploring Our Foundations."

BIODIVERSITY

EU IAS Rapid-Response-Fund

The upcoming EU IAS Rapid-Response-Fund initiative is embedded within the IUCN Save Our Species conservation mechanism and will run for three years. A call for proposals opened on 10th/11th June 2025, with grants ranging from €10,000 to €50,000 available for conservation actions of up to 12 months. Eligible projects must target the early stage of invasion by alien plant or animal species, including macroalgae, with high potential to spread and cause significant impacts to biodiversity and ecosystem services. Government and government affiliated entities are eligible to apply. Visit the SOS IUCN website and link to learn more <https://iucnsos.org/funding-rapid-action-to-combat-invasive-alien-species-in-europe/>

Wildflower and Grass Identification Workshops for Communities

Clare County Council, through the Biodiversity Officer, organised two wildflower and grass identification workshops with Botanist Phoebe O'Brien for local communities. The first workshop was held at Christ Church (Church of Ireland), Spanish Point on 28th of June and the second on the 5th of July in Quin. The workshops covered the identification of wildflowers and grasses on church grounds, how to identify plants using a hand lens and flora guides. The workshops also covered the citizen science initiative Flower Insect Timed (FIT) count to encourage communities to upload biological records to the National Biodiversity Data Centre's online recording database.



Return To Nature Clare Church Biodiversity Project 2025

Wildflower and Grass Identification Workshop with Phoebe O'Brien (Spanish Point, Church of Ireland)

Saturday, 28th June 10am-12:30pm

Register on Eventbrite:
<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/wildflower-identification-workshop-spanish-point-church-of-ireland-tickets-1417803270749?aff=oddtcreator>

Or Email Clare County Council's Biodiversity Officer on biodiversity@clarecoco.ie

This event is supported by Clare County Council Biodiversity Office and NPWS (LBAF) in partnership with the 'Return to Nature' Clare Church Biodiversity Project

Plant and grass identification workshops were held at Doonbeg and Quin.

Council Pollinator Actions: All Ireland Pollinator Plan

As a Council Partner of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, Clare County Council adopted a six-week short cut flowering meadow at Council Headquarters, New Road, Ennis. This has seen the establishment of orchids, including bee orchid and common spotted orchid for the first time. Other plants present include ox-eye daisy, knapweed, hawksbeard, birds foot trefoil, red clover and selfheal which provide a nectar and pollen source for pollinators. The Biodiversity Officer is working with the Environment Section and Gardening Section to achieve these actions. There was significant positive traction and support on social media in response to the measure.



Bee Orchid and Common Spotted Orchid growing on the grounds of Council Headquarters, Ennis.

Community Supports and Biodiversity Packages

Pollinator signs, bird nest boxes, bat roost boxes, bird feeders, swatches, resource material on native trees, pollinator bulbs, swift boxes and barn owl boxes were sent to six community groups that include Tulla, Quin, Killaloe, Shannon, Doonbeg and Spanish Point. All six parishes are participating in the 'Return to Nature Clare Church Biodiversity Project'. This project is led by Clare County Council through the role of the Biodiversity Officer and in partnership with the Dioceses of Killaloe (Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland dioceses).



Biodiversity Awareness Campaigns: Greener Clare

The following were promoted on social media (@GreenerClare/@ClareCoCo) and/or print media during June 2025 - protection of our sand dunes, All Ireland Pollinator Plan and Ex-plore Your Shore Event at Liscannor Bay.

Media Coverage

Coverage of Council Biodiversity Projects was featured in the Clare Champion (20th June 2025) and Clare FM. This included the Knocknahila Peatland Rewetting Project and the project 'Towards building a Strategic Marine Alliance in Liscannor Bay' which featured on Clare FM and is led by the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group and Bannergleo and supported by Clare County Council's Biodiversity Office and the Local Biodiversity Action Fund.



DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The table below shows the number of planning applications processed during the month of June. Sixty five percent of planning applications received in June were received by electronic means.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS	June	2025 to date
No. of planning applications received	114	609
No. of Planning Decisions made	91	490
No. of decisions notified by An Bord Pleanála	5	25
No. of pre-planning enquiries received	21	118
No. of Section 5 applications	11	55
No. of Section 97 Exemption Cert applications (in respect of Part V of the Planning & Dev Act 2000)	6	18
Submissions received regarding Compliance	33	161

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

	June 2025 (20th May to 23rd June inclusive)	2025 to date
New Complaints Received	32	125
New Files Opened	18	72
Files Closed	11	39
Warning Letters Issued	47	136
Enforcement Notices Issued	4	44
Legal Proceedings	2	19

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

- **Mentoring:** LEO Clare has had a substantial demand for one-to-one mentoring support. To date, 236 clients have been assigned expert mentors to assist them in enhancing their businesses, 30 of those assigned during the month of June.
- **Training:** LEO Clare provided an extensive array of training courses and programmes during the month of June, covering areas such as Start Your Own Business, Leadership, Social Media & video editing workshops & AI/Google Analytics training. Approximately 60 individuals availed of these training supports throughout the month.
- **Productivity Supports:** With rising prices affecting all businesses, LEO Clare has various productivity supports to assist businesses offset higher input costs. To date in June, LEO Clare processed 19 Digital for Business, 18 Green for Business and 5 Lean for Business consultancies, with 10 Energy Efficiency Grants and 8 Grow Digital Vouchers.

June Evaluation Committee Meeting

The Local Enterprise Office Evaluation and Approvals Committee (EVAC) held their third evaluation meeting of 2025 in June. Two Business Expansion grants, one Priming grant & one Feasibility

grant were approved by the Committee, with a total of €89k funding being allocated.

Grow Your Local Talent Seminar

On 25th June, LEO Clare collaborated with Mid-West Regional Skills, Ennis Chamber, and LCETB to deliver a seminar at the Old Ground Hotel. The event aimed to support Clare-based businesses seeking to enhance workforce skills by showcasing the broad range of training supports available across multiple agencies. It also provided a valuable platform for local enterprises to engage with education providers and peers, fostering a shared commitment to continuous staff development.



(L-R) Eimear Brophy, LCETB, Padraic McElwee, LEO Clare, Margaret O'Brien, Ennis Chamber, Joe Leddin, Mid West Regional Skills.

Leadership for Female Entrepreneurs Programme

Helen Pilkington & Theresa Mulvihill Killeen of LEO Clare formally presented certificates to 12 female entrepreneurs who successfully completed the recent **"Leadership for Female Entrepreneurs"** Programme. Throughout the programme, participants demonstrated significant professional growth, refining their strategic focus, gaining renewed clarity in their business objectives and enhancing their leadership capabilities to a higher standard.



PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Property Transactions and Conveyancing

The Table below shows the number of property transactions completed by Property Management Unit up to 23rd June 2025

and the corresponding figures for 2024.

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

Transaction type	June 2025	Year to date 2025	Full year 2024
Lease / Sub Lease of Property / Building	0	2	6
Licence to use property / building	2	6	14
Grazing Agreement for Lands	0	28	22
Deed of Transfer signed	0	9	9
Contract for Sale / acquisition signed	0	0	1
Deed of Right of Way / Wayleave signed	0	1	6
Deed of Rectification / Variation signed	0	0	4
Allotment Agreements signed	4	40	40

Property Capital Projects

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

- Tullyvarruga Community Hall upgrade**
 The Property Team is working with the Committee for the Hall and the Shannon Municipal District Team to assess the upgrade and re-habilitation works needed to address continuing defects in the building. This will also give an opportunity to see how the building can be improved to meet the needs of the community.
- Bellevue House, Harmony Row, Ennis**
 The building is in need of upgrade following it being vacated by the Library Headquarters team in November 2024. An upgrade of Mechanical and Electrical services has not been done in 30 years. This project will also provide energy efficient measures, meeting room space, canteen and improved office space.

Casual Trading

This is the busiest season for Casual Trading activity with many events and festivals being held in the Summer months. There are challenges to be met to ensure all traders are managed, do not create disruption or waste management issues when operational and this is a key focus of the team for this year. In addition, there are a number of unauthorized traders setting up

around the County without licences and we have to be vigilant in ensuring they do not continue to operate without a licence in a public place.

DERELICT SITES

The Derelict sites team are currently dealing with 284 properties as at 30th June 2025 that are considered derelict. We continue to have high levels of activity and engagement with owners and their legal / technical representatives. Initial engagement with the owners or their agents is key to resolution of the issues of dereliction and to gain an understanding of the various reasons why the properties are in a derelict state. Where derelict properties are sold by the owner, we commence engagement with the new owners of those properties to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities under the Derelict Sites Act, 1990.

We are also seeing a consistent number of planning applications for property refurbishment/extensions, and it is clear from driving around the county the level of work ongoing on individual properties. We are advising property owners of the vacant property refurbishment grant if the property is suitable for residential use. With time and effort, working with owners, financial institutions and other departments, there are definite options for positive re-development and revitalisation of many such derelict sites.

The table below provides a snapshot of the activity in June 2025 and the year 2025 to date with comparative figures for the full year 2024. There are currently 95 properties included in the Derelict Sites Register as at 30th June 2025.

Derelict Sites	June 2025	Year to date 2025	Full Year 2024
No. of new files opened	8	27	35
No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued - Intention to enter site on Derelict Sites Register	5	19	36
No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued - Entry of site onto Derelict Sites Register	4	14	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	7	17	26
No. of Notices served to Compulsorily Purchase derelict sites (CPO) (see note below)	1	6	7
No of Vesting Orders signed	0	4	5

Compulsory Acquisition of Derelict Sites (CPO)

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

Year	No of CPOs commenced	Current Status
2022	6	3 - CPOs completed and property transferred to Housing for refurbishment works. Two of these are now completed and the other one commenced in February 2025.
		1 - was paused and is being re-commenced in 2025
		1 - CPO completed and sale closed in August 2024- New owner has commenced works
		1 - works have commenced and CPO parked for now
2023	10	2- At Vesting Stage and lodged in Tailte Éireann
		1 - CPO completed and property was sold in December 2024 - Planning application received for re-development
		1 - CPO completed and property was sold in December 2024 - Planning application received for re-development
		3 - Title received from Tailte Éireann. One is on the market currently and two are being prepared for sale.
		1 - Works are being commenced
2024	7	4 - At Vesting Stage and lodged in PRA
		1 - Title received from Tailte Éireann. Property is being prepared for sale.
		2 - CPO commenced but was rejected by An Bord Pleanála- may be re-commenced
2025	6	1 - CPO process commenced in last Month
		4 - At Vesting Stage and lodged in PRA
		1 - Objection received and process paused for now

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

Derelict Site Levy

Determination of valuations on sites which are on the Derelict Sites Register commenced in 2023 and notices of valuation have issued to properties as detailed in the table below. Four owners have appealed the valuation to the Valuation Tribunal and while decisions are awaited on two appeals, one appeal by an owner was rejected. The levy is an annual levy while the property remains on the Derelict Sites Register and amounts to 7% of the value of the property, on an annual basis. Assessment of valuations and billing of the levy will be further progressed during 2025 and it is intended that all properties on the Derelict Sites Register will be valued for the purposes of billing the levy. This levy will go towards the cost of billing and collection of the levy and resourcing of derelict sites function, up to and including CPO of properties.

The Table below shows the levels of activity on the Derelict sites levy as of 23rd June 2025. All other properties on the Derelict sites register are being valued for the purposes of the Derelict sites levy.

Derelict Sites Levy	June 2025	Year to date 2025	Full Year 2024
No. of properties on which the levy has been billed	1	23	9
Amount billed in respect of Derelict sites Levy	€15,750	€300,160	€124,110
Amount collected	0	26,000	14,300
Number of properties on which valuations have been requested	3	25	26
Number of properties on which notices of Valuation have been issued to owners	4	17	18
Number of properties where the notice of valuation was appealed by the owner	0	0	4

VACANT PROPERTY REFURBISHMENT GRANT - FOR DERELICT AND VACANT PROPERTIES

As of the 24th June 2025, the value of grants approved by Clare County Council under the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant Scheme has exceeded €24 million (401 grant applications approved or 66% of all applications), with further approvals due to issue.

These photos give just one example of the transformation undertaken by the owners of this traditional cottage in the rural countryside.

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 on all elements of the scheme and is available to meet with individuals to take them through the process.

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

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

Amount approved by Local Electoral Area (incl those with grant funding paid out)			
Local Electoral Area	No of applications approved	Total amount approved (€)	% of total number of Grants Approved
Kilrush LEA	140	€8.6 million	36%
Ennistymon LEA	77	€4.7 million	20%
Killaloe LEA	76	€4.5 million	19%
Ennis LEA	66	€3.7 million	16%
Shannon LEA	42	€2.48 million	10%
Grand Total	401	€24 million	100%



Any applicant can meet with the Vacant Homes Team in Áras Contae an Chláir by appointment or can discuss their application over the phone with any team member. We continue to have high levels of enquiries and applications for the Grants and the total applications since the scheme was introduced in July 2022 has now exceeded 600, with 107 of them being received this year 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 €8 million to 138 property owners in County Clare who have completed works – that means that 33% of all grants approved have been paid out to date.

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

Other Points of Information

1. The breakdown of applications between urban and rural areas has remained consistent - 56% of applications are for rural areas of the county and 44% for properties in towns and villages.
2. To date, 70% of applications are for properties to be used as principal private residence (376 properties) and the balance of 30% are for rent. This has remained consistent in recent months.
3. Approximately 52 property owners have applied to have the period to complete the works extended. Such requests are considered on a case by case basis, depending on the level of work carried out to date and the timeframe needed to complete the works.

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

ENNIS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Ennis Municipal District AGM

The Ennis Municipal District AGM was held on Thursday, June 26th in the Chamber at Aras Contae an Chláir. Cllr. Mary Howard was elected Mayor and Cllr. Pat Daly elected Deputy Mayor. Cllr. Howard took over the reins from Cllr. Clare Colleran-Molloy who reviewed the year as Mayor with pride as she listed various achievements across the MD.

The Executive wish Cllr. Mary Howard and Cllr Pat Daly a very happy and productive year ahead.



Mayoral Reception to launch the 12th International O'Dea Clan Gathering in Co. Clare

Mayor Clare Colleran Molloy opened the 12th International O'Dea Clan Gathering in the Banquet Room of Temple Gate Hotel on Friday June 13th at 6:00pm. The gathering, now in its 12th year, attracts people who are proud of their "O'Dea" connection to County Clare, who travel to Ireland for this event from places as far as USA, Canada, Australia as well as Ireland and the UK. Over 130 people were present for the Reception. Mayor Colleran Molloy spoke of the richness of the history of the O'Dea name in Clare and that "the Gathering is therefore really a celebration for all of us, it is a reminder of our shared history and that 'Chieftain' spirit that lives on." She also spoke of the fantastic financial benefit to the town of Ennis and to County Clare that the gathering brings and she wished the visitors a thoroughly enjoyable stay in Clare.



Proud citizens from the City of Ennis, Texas visit Ennis.

As part of their 'Taste of Ireland Tour', a group from the City of Ennis, Texas met with Deputy Mayor of Ennis MD Cllr. Antoinette Baker-Bashua and Cllr. Mary Howard and members

of the Executive in the Chamber followed by refreshments. The Mayor of the City of Ennis, Kameron Raburn, prepared an official proclamation from the City of Ennis, Texas, which recognises the spirit of connection and kinship between the two communities. The visiting group presented this proclamation to the Deputy Mayor who also presented gifts for the Mayor of the City of Ennis and Maria Coplan the group organiser. Maria is also a primary school teacher and is determined to get a pen pal system going with a school in Ennis MD.



Deep Clean of Ennis Town Centre Streets and Paving

Ennis MD procured the services of a specialist Contractor to undertake a deep clean of the paving and streetscape along Parnell St, Abbey St, High St and associated laneways. Ennis MD crews separately undertook power washing works to footways along Abbey St Carpark and Chapel Lane in Ennis.



Maid of Eireann Planting

The final touches were added to the Maid of Eireann planters this month. The planters were fabricated by Ennis Men's Shed with funding for all materials provided by the URBACT eConnecting project. In co-ordination with Ennis Tidy Towns and the Gardening Department, the area was planted with an array of beautiful flowers to add colour to one of the main entry routes to Ennis.



Age Friendly Seating - Friars Walk

To compliment the recent installation of age friendly seating at the Mill Wheel Riverwalk, further age friendly seating was installed at the Friars Walk bus stop this month. This initiative was made possible by collaboration between Ennis MD and Ennis Men's Shed as part of the URBACT eConnecting project. This group upcycled several old park benches which were in disrepair and no longer in use. The Mens Shed skillfully repaired the benches and painted them with vibrant colors, giving them a new lease of life and promoting sustainable usage.



Ballyallia Lake Footpaths

Ennis MD staff have completed resurfacing works to 350m of public footpaths within the amenity area of Ballyallia Lake. The works involved the removal of existing surfacing, tree root removal, drainage adjustments and tarmac resurfacing of the footpaths.

These works were funded by GMA funding that had been ring-fenced for improvements for the amenity area.



Storm Eowyn Remedial Works

Although it is now the month of June, Ennis MD outdoor crews are still working through some issues logged as a result of adverse weather associated with Storm Eowyn. Some of these works include tree removal, stump grinding/removal, tree balancing, fence repairs etc. A lot of this work was carried out in the first quarter of this year following the storm, but issues that maybe did not present an immediate health and safety concerns, for example tree stumps in isolated green areas or damaged fencing in quieter areas of residential estates are continuing to be addressed.



Repair works to Maid of Eireann Fountain

Repair works were carried out to the Maid of Eireann fountain feature in recent weeks. Electrical issues and blockages prevented the fountain from showcasing its water feature of late but recent repair works have the fountain back to its full aesthetic appeal.



Oil Spill Remedial Works

Ennis MD crews undertook remedial works following an oil spill in the Drumbiggle area of Ennis this month. The issue extended to residential areas including McHugh's Villas, Drumbiggle Drive and Ard Carrig. Our crews attended the areas and treated the spillage accordingly. The issue was communicated to the Environment Dept for further investigation.

Illegal Dumping & Community Clean-ups

Ennis MD crews assisted with a community cleanup in Clarecastle as part of the RTE show DIY SOS. Illegal dumping clean ups were also required in areas of Ennis including Wesby's Lane and Waterpark Heights, Drumbiggle Ennis, which continues to be a blackspot in terms of incidences of illegal dumping.



IBAL Honours for Ennis



Ennis has been restored to one of the top five tidiest towns in Ireland in the latest anti-litter league survey. The latest Irish Businesses Against Litter report has deemed the county town as the second tidiest in the country according to its latest ranking. It means Ennis, a former winner of the IBAL litter league, is now regarded as 'cleaner than European norms' along with eight other towns nationwide. According to the An Taisce Report, Ennis only narrowly missed out on top spot, with nine of the assessed areas receiving an A grade, up from five when last assessed in December.

Road Works Programme

Ennis MD roads crews are currently progressing the 2025 Road Works Programme. The crews are preparing roads, installing and upgrading drainage, opening back drains and inlets and carrying out verge cleaning.

The surface dressing works have commenced, with the road making commencing in early July.



PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

TRANSPORTATION

Roadworks Programme and Operations

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

Strategic Transportation

Active Travel

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

Tulla Road Active Travel Scheme:

The Tulla Rd. Active Travel Scheme has been tendered for construction on eTenders.

Limerick Road (incl. St. Flannan's Drive) Cycle Scheme:

An updated cost estimate was presented to the NTA after the completion of the Value Engineering Exercise. Following this the NTA requested that the proposed design undergo a peer review by a member of the NTA team. Comments were received from this review at the end of June with a view to holding a further workshop at the beginning of July to finalise the way forward on the design of this scheme.

Ardnacrusha to Athlunkard Bridge:

Clare County Council met with the Active Travel Team in Limerick County Council to review progress and options for the Athlunkard Bridge design and for Corbally Rd Scheme to agree a consistent approach for active travel proposals on both sides of the Athlunkard bridge. Clare County Council still await feedback from the NTA on the appropriate preliminary design option to proceed with this scheme.

Safe Routes To School program:

Gaelscoil Ennis:

A "Letter of Intent" has been issued for consultancy services for the Corrivoran bridge work element of the scheme, a competency assessment is underway. Designs for junction tightening with the Gort Rd is progressing.

Holy Family National School Phase 2:

Construction work is nearing completion with the pedestrian crossing, kerbing and footpath works finished. Planting areas, seating, bollards and lining remain to be completed. Works should be finalised by early July.



Barefield National School

A Part 8 planning application for the Barefield "Safe Routes To School" scheme has been submitted.

The Bus Stop Enhancement Programme:

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

Public Lighting	<p>Clare County Council continues to work on the repair and maintenance of the public lighting network in Clare through its public lighting Maintenance Contractor, Electric Skyline. 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 are required such as cabling works, additional civils works to bring a light or lights back into service, in order 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.</p> <p>For the benefit of Councillors, public lighting faults can be reported via Local Authority Identification (https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/roads-and-transport/road-maintenance-issues/report-a-broken-streetlight).</p> <p>The retrofitting of lights under the PLEEP Project (Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project) continues in Clare with works currently ongoing in the Shannon, Killaloe and Ennis MD's with works scheduled to commence in West Clare MD at the end of June. 1,820 Luminaires have been retrofitted to date to the 25th June representing 58% of the overall no of units to be retrofitted in Clare as part of the PLEEP Project.</p> <p>Clare County Council are working with the PLEEP Team and Electric Skyline to maximise output of both work crews.</p>
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Road Design Office

Project	Progress Update
Bridge Rehabilitation Programme	<p>The 2025 Bridge Rehabilitation grant application has been approved, the funding for this year totals: €689,500.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awaiting AA Screening Report First bridge tender awarded containing 4 no. Bridges in East Clare.
Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads	<p>Low Cost Safety Schemes in 2025:</p> <p>The 2025 Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads grant application has been approved, the funding for this year totals: €640,000. The projects are</p> <p>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-4158 Barefield Village L-1041 East of Bealaclogga R485 North of M18 Junction 9 @ Cullen R-463-125 Ardcloney Bridge, Killaloe, R473 Kiladysart National School</p> <p>Specific Improvement Ogonolloe Detailed design has commenced for Phase 2 of the safety improvement works.</p>

TII Safety Improvement

HD17	N85 Clareabbey Roundabout A draft Preliminary Design Report has been sent to TII for review.
	N85/N68 Rocky Road Roundabout Feasibility & Options Report has been approved at Gateway 1 by TII. A Road Safety Audit is scheduled for Q3.
	N67 Lahinch Pedestrian Crossings A draft Feasibility & Options Report has been sent to TII for review.
	N67 Mount Charles Terrace A draft Feasibility & Options Report has been sent to TII for review.
	N67 Clohanes Junction Safety Improvement A draft Feasibility & Options Report has been sent to TII for review.
	N67 Caherfeenick Junction Safety Improvement A draft Feasibility & Options Report has been sent to TII for review.
	N67 Doonbeg A Stage 1 Road Safety Audit has been completed.

Cycling Infrastructure / Smarter Travel

Doolin Cycle Hub	Sport Ireland have completed an Inspection of the four Doolin Cycle Loops in accordance with the new 'Recreational Cycle Trail Criteria for Ireland.' The report recommendations have been reviewed by the Road Design Office and required works advised to Municipal District.
EuroVelo	Further to the inspection by Sport Ireland 80% of snags on the route have now been rectified. Future works will also include the updating of existing information mapboards on the route.

Speed Limits

Periodic Speed Limits	<p>Byelaws adopting 50kph periodic speed limits at a number of locations across the county were adopted at the April Council meeting. A procurement process has been concluded and a letter of acceptance appointing the contractor has been issued. Works will include the construction of foundations ; the supply , installation and commissioning of periodic speed limit signs at the following locations :</p> <p>Doolin NS Raheen Woods NS Ogonolloe NS Cloonaha NS Kilmurray McMahon NS Moveen NS</p> <p>Works will commence as soon as possible with commissioning by the end of the summer. It is planned that all signs will be operational by the start of the school term in August.</p>
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Machinery Yard - Fleet Replacement Plan / Fleet Decarbonisation

The Machinery Yard has just taken receipt of 6 Fully Electric 3.5T Pick-Ups and 2 Fully Electric Vans for utilisation throughout the county as a direct replacement for existing diesel fuelled vehicles. The introduction of the fully electric vehicles shall result in a significant reduction in emissions from the Fleet and move towards meeting the targets as set out in the Clare Climate Action Plan and the National Climate Action Plan.

Health and Safety

- The Health and Safety team are continuing to carry out their work programme including the annual revision and updating of ancillary safety statements, risk assessments, schedule of safety inspections, briefings with staff etc,
- The HS-POL-01 Occupational health and safety policy and the HS-FM-02 Occupational Health and Safety Management system manual/parent safety statement were revised and approved by the Safety Management Committee. Copies of the documents have been uploaded on to the Council intranet under Health and Safety.
- Certification to I.S. ISO 45001:2018 has been granted to Clare County Council Physical Directorate, Housing Department and Fire & Rescue Services by NSAI.
- The overall outcome of the report recommended that the Scope of the Accreditation should be extended to the specific areas audited, and identifies strengths and improvements of the areas audited.

CAPITAL DELIVERY / PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Doolin Pier

PMO met with Department in June 2025 to review project progress, next steps and future funding requirements. Cross-directorate group are currently reviewing key priorities in the area, to inform any future submissions to the department in respect of strategic development of facilities at Doolin pier. The MD is progressing construction of footpaths between Fisher Street and Doolin Pier, the programme of works which is due for completion in coming months. This will ensure that pedestrian connectivity is in place along this well-trafficked route.

Ennis Public Realm Regeneration (Project B)

The project achieved a significant milestone with the opening of the road section in front of the Cathedral/Upper O'Connell Street 19th June 2025, and is the first section of shared surface public realm space to be opened to traffic. This restores through traffic from Station Road and further relieves disruption caused by this important project.

The works are well progressed at Barrack Square, where significant excavation has now been completed throughout the area and paving laid. It is expected that the works will be well progressed over coming months, facilitating a late summer opening, and the launch of this new Café quarter area.

With the Cathedral area now completed, and in combination with works previously completed along O'Connell Street, there is now a continuous stretch of Shared Space Public Realm Streetscape in place. The O'Connell Square works are ongoing. The street fountain installation is well progressed. The inter-connecting mechanical and electrical services have been advanced, and the roof has been backfilled over the reservoir structure.

On the 1st July, a road closure will come into effect for the road section from Abbey Street through to Bank Place. This will be in place for three months and allows completion of O'Connell Square and Bank Place. This will be the last phase of the project to be completed.

Consultation with impacted traders and stakeholders is ongoing, and the contractor has appointed a Public Liaison Officer in this regard, in line with Works Requirements. Focused Stakeholder Consultation events were held on 9th December 2024 and on 19th March 2025 to review upcoming works phases. The contractor is also issuing weekly newsletters to inform of upcoming works.

(Subscribe to ennispublicrealmb@shareridge.ie). The contractor, project team, and Clare County Council Resident Engineering staff are available to help traders and the public with any concerns and to mitigate impacts from the works wherever possible. It continues to be necessary to close streets to allow these works to be completed safely, and the project team and contractor, together with Ennis MD are working hard to coordinate activities to keep traffic impacts to a minimum and ensure that Ennis is kept open for business throughout the remaining months of this project.

Ennistymon Inner Relief Road and Bridge Crossing (Blake's Corner)

No update.

Killaloe Bridge, Bypass & R494 Upgrade

The New Shannon Bridge Crossing (Brian Boru Bridge) was formally opened by the Minister for Transport Darragh O'Brien T.D. on Thursday 22nd May. This was not just a momentous occasion for the local communities of Killaloe and Ballina but for the Mid-West Region at large. The Brian Boru Bridge is the first major crossing over the River Shannon since the Shannon Bridge was opened in Limerick in 1988!



Now that the bridge is opened the benefits of the scheme are plain to see. Journey times for those travelling between East Clare and the M7 Motorway have been significantly reduced. No waiting time at traffic lights. Free-flowing traffic through self-regulating roundabouts.

Waiting times at the lights on the old bridge have been positively impacted by the scheme due to the sizeable decrease in traffic volume. Waiting times at peak-hours is vastly reduced. (Photo Credit Paul Corey).

The New Shannon Bridge Crossing (Brian Boru Bridge) was formally opened by the Minister for Transport Darragh O'Brien T.D. on Thursday 22nd May. (Pic 128) This was not just a momentous occasion for the local communities of Killaloe and Ballina but for the Mid-West Region at large. (Pic 148). The Brian Boru Bridge is the first major crossing over the River Shannon since the Shannon Bridge was opened in Limerick in 1988!



People are travelling from the surrounding hinterland to visit Killaloe/Ballina and to use these new amenities and to see the bridge.



This can only have a positive impact on the local economy.

Although there was a H&S constraint on the numbers that could be invited to the opening, members of the public such as Senior Citizens



Junior Citizens and Local Community Groups such as the Killaloe-Ballina Local History Society, Tidy Towns and members of the local clergy were all invited to partake.



Additional project specific information including monthly drone footage, traffic management plans etc. is available on:

<https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/capital-projects/roads-and-bridges/killaloe-bypass-shannon-bridge-crossing/>

Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme	<p>A kick-off meeting was held with the Geophysical Survey contractor on 18.06.25. It is anticipated that the license will be issued by the National Monuments Service in mid-July for an end of July start onsite. The amended set of draft land acquisition drawings have been issued and reviewed. The overall deposit maps for the scheme are currently being drafted.</p> <p>An Application for Approval to carry out a Flood Relief Scheme is currently being assessed by An Bord Pleanála. The Application was submitted in October 2024.</p>
Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF)	<p>The letter of acceptance to award the contract for the delivery of this infrastructural project to the preferred contractor is pending.</p> <p>Further meetings with the Department of Housing / LIHAF Management Committee and the OPW took place recently with regard the one outstanding land parcel. The matters raised are currently being considered by our Legal advisors and we await their direction and advise with regard the appropriate way to advance.</p> <p>All other land parcels required for the road have been acquired/agreed terms including the parcel of lands where the first approx. 225 housing units will be delivered.</p>
N19 Shannon Airport Access Road	<p>A significant milestone has now been reached with the EIAR (Environmental Impact Assessment Report) and NIS (Natura Impact Statement) documentation for the N19 Shannon Airport Access Road Improvement Scheme issued for final legal review on the 23rd June 2025.</p> <p>This marks many months of hard work by our scheme consultants Fehily Timoney Clandillon & Co. as part of the Design & Environmental Evaluation Phase of this project.</p> <p>The PMO would also like to recognise the contribution of all project stakeholders such as TII Project Services Departments, Shannon Municipal District, The Shannon Airport Group, Shannon Commercial Properties, Future Mobility Campus Ireland, NTA, Iarnród Éireann and all Utility Providers.</p> <p>It is hoped that following legal review we will be submitting this project for Statutory Consent later in 2025. Phase 5 (Enabling and Procurement) & Phase 6 (Construction) will progress thereafter which are subject to timely consents, no legal challenge, funding, etc. The construction contract is estimated to be in the region of 18 months in duration.</p> <p>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	<p>A Planning Application in respect of the remediation of the subject sites has been prepared. The sites continue to be routinely monitored and maintained as required by Council staff in accordance with approach as agreed with the EPA.</p>
Shannon Town & Environs Flood Relief Scheme	<p>A full-day workshop was carried out on 12.06.25, involving members of CCC, OPW and the RPS design & ecology team. A number of additional actions have been agreed from the workshop which include reviews of, the geotechnical design, cost estimates, environmental constraints and further modelling tasks. Various workshops are planned for July and August to facilitate the process.</p> <p>CCC and RPS continue to liaise with MARA (Maritime Area Regulatory Authority) in relation to the MAC (Marine Area Consent) application.</p>
West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 1: Kilrush to Kilkee)	<p>Engagement with the affected household and landowners is progressing, with one-to-one negotiations under way. Compensation offers are being valued and drawings are being refined. Work continues on preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS).</p>
West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 2: Ennis to Ennistymon)	<p>Work continues on preparation for Public Consultation (PC3) - Emerging Preferred Route Corridor. Our Project Liaison Officers are available to discuss the proposed project with any potentially affected landowners.</p>
West Clare Railway Greenway (Sections 3 & 4: Ennistymon to Miltown Malbay to Moyasta)	<p>Unfortunately progress on Sections 3 & 4 (Ennistymon, Lahinch, Miltown Malbay, Quilty, Mullagh, Doonbeg, Moyasta) is currently at a standstill as these two projects did not receive funding allocation under Transport Infrastructure Ireland's 2025 budget.</p>
Other Greenway Proposals	<p>No update this month.</p>

General Design Office

Ennistymon Hub Derelict Building Refurbishment, Monastery Lane

The General Design Office has received 3 no. tenders for the construction works which are being assessed by our Quantity Surveyor.



Fáilte Ireland Platforms for Growth Facility Bal- lycuggaran

Works are progressing well, with a completion date of early September 2025. The General Design Office, on behalf of Fáilte Ireland, has gone to tender for the manufacture and supply of bespoke information signage which will be installed in and around the building. Tender receipt date is 23rd June 2025.



Lahinch Playground

Tenders received and contractor will to be appointed shortly, works will include removal of existing playground equipment and replace with equipment suitable for coastal area.

Lees Road, Lighting Upgrade

Tenders received and contractor appointed. All lighting will be changed to LED lights.

Footpath Upgrade, Sta- tion Road, Lahinch

Design Stage - drawings being prepared. It is proposed to install a 1.2m footpath along a section of the station road in Lahinch approx. 120m long.

Scarriff Rural Regener- ation Project - Phase I Buildings and Carpark

Following the initial structural demolition and repair works required to stabilise the existing buildings, construction works are now progressing well. Roofing of the new Community Enterprise Centre (former Merriman Tavern) has started with the rebuilding of the Digital Hub (former Supermacs) building complete to first floor level.



**Mountshannon
Mobility Plan**

Civil Works have been completed in Mountshannon village by the contractor with road lining now also complete and the pedestrian crossing is now switched on.



Mobile Library

The GDO, in conjunction with Roads & Transportation and on behalf of Clare Libraries, has advertised on Etenders for the provision of a mobile library vehicle for Co. Clare. GDO assisted in the preparation of the specification and pricing documents. The tender will be assessed & awarded by Roads and Transportation and GDO staff in July.

**Sixmilebridge
Courthouse**

Feasibility study to see if it is viable to upgrade the existing building and add individual studios to the main hall. Works intended include the key restoration to the existing building including the reinstatement of the original roof, with restoration of original windows. New works will include the subdivision of the central hall to 3 No. studio spaces with circulation space and the upgrade of M & E throughout.

FIRE & BUILDING CONTROL SECTION

Training Courses

Clare County Fire & Rescue Service personnel underwent a number of training courses during June including Breathing Apparatus Initial Training from 16th to 27th June 2025 in Hacketstown and Emergency Services Driving Standard Training on 3rd & 4th June 2025 at Ennis Fire Station. Several personnel also completed the online Children First Training. A member of Clare County Fire & Rescue Service attended the Fire Service College in the U.K. representing the Women's Fire Service Network of Ireland at The Women in the Fire Service UK National Training and Development Event 2025 from 20th to 22nd June 2025.

National Campaign to Assist Ongoing Recruitment of Retained Firefighters launched

Kilkee firefighter Deborah Hickie leads the National Recruitment Campaign, designed to attract new retained firefighters across Ireland. Fire and Rescue Services throughout Ireland have recruited and trained 562 new retained firefighters since September 2023. However, some fire stations still need additional firefighters. The NDFEM's national campaign aims to support local authorities in their recruitment efforts to educate the public on the important role firefighters play in their communities.



Retained Firefighter Deborah Hickie, Kilkee Fire Brigade

Kilmihil Community Comeback Event 2025

Muintir na Tire, the national association for the promotion of community development in Ireland, hosted a Community Comeback Event in Kilmihil Community Centre on the 30th May 2025. The Community Comeback template is part of the Community Alert programme which seeks to build on community support at a local level and provide a display of services that are available locally. Clare County Fire & Rescue Service was represented at this event by ACFO Ross Forde and ACFO Andrew Young who primarily focused on raising awareness of the Home Fire Safety Check initiative currently available in the county.



Kilmihil Community Comeback Event 2025

Fire & Building Control Section			
Main Activities	May 2025	June 2025 (Up to 23.06.25)	Year to Date 2025
Number of Emergency Calls Attended	97	82	686
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Received	13	4	56
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Granted	8	5	59
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Invalidated	0	0	1
Number of Disability Access Certificates Received	9	4	39
Number of Disability Access Certificates Granted	10	4	44
Number of Commencement Notices Received	41	27	169
Number of Dangerous Structures/Places Complaints	1	2	5

(Note: In the June Monthly Report, the May figures related to 1st to 22nd May due to timing of report)

CLARE CIVIL DEFENCE

Operational Duties:

- Civil Defence provided medical cover at the following events in June including 24 Hour Relay for Life (Fairgreen, Ennis); Clarecastle Regatta; Tour of the Burren (West Clare); The opening of the new Killaloe/Ballina Bridge; River Clean Up (Scoil Criost Ri, Cloughleigh); School Regatta (Cloughleigh); Cycling Event (Shannon) and 2 Camogie matches in Cusack Park.



CD Members at the opening of new Killaloe/Ballina Bridge & CD Members at the 24 Hour Relay for Life

Members Training & Professional Development

- 2 volunteers travelled to Dublin to participate on a training course for the update of the Boating Training Programme.
- Year two volunteers completed the First Aid Responder Course.
- 10 volunteers including 3 from Limerick Civil Defence commenced the Emergency Medical Technician Course

Missing Persons Search Operations

Clare Civil Defence volunteers assisted An Garda Síochána with two missing person search operations, one in Clare and the second in County Tipperary. Both persons were located alive and well after a short search.

The handover of the new boat - Zodiac Millpro

Clare Civil Defence has taken delivery of a brand-new rescue boat, significantly strengthening the organisation's emergency response and water safety capabilities across the county.



Civil Defence Members Trial Zodiac Rescue Boat

Health & Safety

56 volunteers attended the Annual Health & Safety briefing night. The Health and Safety Team continue to review all documentation.

Below: Volunteers at H&S Night



ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Awareness

Gum Litter Taskforce Clare roadshow

The Gum Litter Taskforce (GLT) brought its Summer Roadshow to Kilkee Bandstand, on 18th June 2025, in collaboration with Clare County Council and Kilkee Tidy Towns. The event aimed to raise awareness about the environmental impact of gum litter and promoted responsible disposal habits. This campaign highlighted the importance of keeping public spaces clean from gum littering.



Building a Circular Community Grant Scheme 2025

As part of the Building a Circular Community Grant Scheme we awarded full funding to 17 community groups. An additional 12 groups received partial funding to support their circular economy initiatives. Unfortunately, 8 groups were not successful in securing funding. Each of these groups received a letter outlining the reasons for the decision.

National Food Waste Recycling Week

To mark National Food Waste Recycling Week, our Environmental Awareness Officer took part in a lively and engaging discussion with participants of the Climate Conversation initiative. The event focused on practical climate action through food waste prevention and proper use of the brown bin.

Environmental Awareness Campaigns June 2025

Throughout June, Clare County Council promoted a series of environmental awareness initiatives across social media, local newspapers, and radio, including:

1. ERP Electrical Recycling Drop-Off Day – Held at Kilrush Mart, encouraging responsible disposal of electrical waste.
2. Mattress Amnesty Day – Held in Shannon, promoting the responsible disposal of mattresses.
3. CARO “Protect Our Dunes” Campaign – Highlighted the importance of preserving dune ecosystems and encouraged responsible beach use.
4. Clare FM “Ours to Protect” interview – Our Environmental Awareness Officer (EAO) participated in this series, focusing on promoting Blue Flag beach criteria and good environmental practices.
5. Water Quality Monitoring – Promoted the role of our Environmental Laboratory team in monitoring water quality at Clare’s Blue Flag beaches, along with the use of www.beaches.ie
6. “Love This Place; Leave No Trace” Campaign – Promoted by our Environmental Awareness Officer on Clare FM’s Morning Focus programme.

Community Engagement

Our EAO attended the Clarecastle Regatta with Clare County Council’s Climate Action Officer. Together they facilitated a Greener Clare information stand, providing guidance on climate action, waste prevention, and segregation to attendees.

Our EAO also attended the Green Flag raising ceremony at Connolly National School. The event was supported by Connolly Tidy Towns and it was great to see the strong collaboration between the school and the local community.



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	June 2025	Total to date 2025
Bathing Water Monitoring	57	73
Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant Inspections (NIP Plan)	6 (Water Team)	52
Public queries processed regarding DWWTS grants	2	33
Monitoring Inspections of Section 4 licenced premises	0	40
Planning applications (Agriculture)	24	39
Planning applications (Domestic)	35	189
Planning applications (Large Developments)	5	16
Planning applications (Forestry)	0	0
Pollution complaints received	14	74
Private Commercial Drinking Water Supplies	0	51
Private/Public Group Water Scheme supplies	3	137
Private/Public Group Water Scheme supplies	2	134
Rivers	10	134
Farm Inspections (NAIP) (Routine Planned & Unplanned)	2	55

Oil Incident Investigation Ennistymon:

The water enforcement team were involved in investigation of oil smells in surface water network in Ennistymon town for 1.5 days in co-operation with the North Clare municipal district staff. The oil was traced back to an old underground tank which was leaking into a surface water drain. Mitigation measures such as oil booms/pads were put in place at two locations in the Inagh river to where the surface water drain discharged.

The West Clare MD employed the services of an oil specialist contractor for advice on safely removing the oil tank without any negative environmental impact.

Agriculture Inspection Programme

A presentation was given by staff to the SPC members on 15th June to demonstrate how farms are selected for inspection and summarise the findings of inspections to date in County Clare.

Waste Enforcement

Inspections of Tyre Retailers under the Waste Management (Tyres and Waste Tyres) Regulations 2017.

Inspections of 26 tyre retailers were carried out by the Waste Enforcement team to monitor compliance with the above regulations. 3 warning letters were issued for minor non-compliances as a result. Follow-up inspections will be carried out to verify compliance.

Fines issued under the Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended

A total of 7 litter fines were issued in June, under the Litter Pollution Act, 1997. Appropriate time will be allowed for payment, thereafter reminder letters will be issued.

Enforcement Notices and Warning Letters under the Waste Management Act 1996

In June 2 warning letters and 1 Section 14 Notice were issued under the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended. These sites are being monitored regularly for compliance.

Abandoned Vehicles

In line with Clare County Council's policy and Section 71 of the Waste Management Act, we continue to monitor and take enforcement action on vehicles which are abandoned in public places. This work is carried out in conjunction with the Municipal Districts and the Gardaí. Following a joint meeting of An Garda Síochána, Ennis MD and Environment, several cars were removed from public places.

Environmental Monitoring (Illegal Dumping/Litter)

The Waste Enforcement Team continued to respond to waste and litter-related complaints in June. A total of 58 complaints relating to litter (7) and waste (51) were received in June. All of these are currently being investigated, followed up and appropriate enforcement action will be taken.

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

Waste Enforcement Complaints	June 2025
Litter	7
Dog Fouling (waste)	5

Waste Presentation (waste)	2
Dumping (waste)	43
Green Waste complaints (waste)	1
Waste & litter (Total)	58

Anti-Dumping Initiative

Mattress Amnesty Day Shannon

Using funding secured under the Anti-Dumping Initiative 2025, a mattress recycling day was held in Shannon on Saturday, 21st June. Householders were given the opportunity to drop off their mattresses for free. A total of 338 mattresses were deposited on the day. The company recycles the mattresses into non-woven padding products to be used in furniture and bedding. This is a great example of re-using a potential waste material and eliminating the need for new material to be brought to the market.



Additional Audio Warning Devices

Additional "Audio Warning Devices" were installed throughout the county, giving a warning message about dog fouling and dumping at bottle banks. This is also funded by the Anti-Dumping Initiative.



Waste Management

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

Civic Amenity Site Waste Streams (KG)	
Item	May 2025 (latest Data)
Bulky items	60,140
Cardboard	20,900
Dry Recyclable	410
Paper	11,240
Green Waste	40,460
Mattresses	5,740
Municipal Waste	137,874
Plastic Packaging	2,220
Timber	139,100

Beaches

Lifeguard Service

Lifeguards were on duty for the weekend of 18th/19th May and again on the weekend of 25th/26th May at Kilkee, Fanore, Lahinch and Spanish Point.

Lifeguards were on duty full time (Mon -Sun 11am-7pm) at Kilkee, Fanore, Lahinch and Spanish Point throughout the month of June. There was also weekend lifeguard service at Whitestrand Miltown Malbay, Whitestrand Doonbeg, Cappa, Ballyalla, Mountshannon and Ballycuggeran.

Blue Flag

As of June 1st, 2025, Green Coast and Blue flags are flying. This indicates the excellent water quality and infrastructure at our relevant beaches.

Blue Flags	Green Coast Awards
Kilkee	Carrigaholt Beach
Lahinch	Ballyallia Lake
Fanore	Seafield
Spanish Point	Bishops Quarter
Whitestrand Miltown	Quilty
Whitestrand Doonbeg	
Cappagh Pier	
Ballycuggeran	
Mountshannon	



CLIMATE ACTION



Projects funded under the Community Climate Action Programme have now entered the implementation phase. Each group has an 18-month timeframe to deliver their approved initiatives. This month, several groups made significant progress, with actions ranging from biodiversity enhancement and renewable energy installations to sustainable transport and water conservation measures. Highlights include:

- **Ruan Tidy Towns:** As part of their participation in the Community Climate Action Programme, Ruan Tidy Towns has implemented a series of biodiversity and food-growing initiatives. These include the planting of mixed native hedgerows, the installation of raised beds with fruit trees and vegetables, and the development of a pollinator-friendly area to support local ecosystems.
- **St Joseph's GAA Club, Miltown Malbay:** The club has taken significant steps to improve sustainability on-site by installing a rainwater harvesting system to reduce water consumption and constructing covered bicycle parking to promote active travel among members and visitors.
- **Kilkee Waterworld:** In a major renewable energy upgrade, Kilkee Waterworld has installed a large ground-mounted

solar photovoltaic (PV) system. This installation is expected to significantly reduce the facility's carbon footprint and energy costs.



St. Josephs Miltown



Ruan Tidy Towns



Kilkee Waterworld

provided practical insights into climate resilience and local action. Their contributions helped contextualize global climate issues within everyday life, highlighting the importance of inter-generational and community-driven responses.



Over 60's

Staff E-Bike Locker

The Climate team and Facilities team have recently installed an e-bike locker to support the use of the staff electric bike sharing scheme. This secure storage facility makes it easier and more convenient for staff to access and use electric bikes during the workday, promoting sustainable travel and reducing reliance on the car for short journeys. The initiative is part of the Council's broader efforts to encourage low-carbon transport options and improve on the Smarter Travel bronze certification awarded last year. The Smarter Travel Mark is a national certification initiative led by Ireland's National Transport Authority (NTA), designed to recognise organisations that actively promote sustainable and active travel options-such as walking, cycling & public transport-for their workforce and visitors. It operates on a three-tier system: Bronze, Silver, and Gold, depending on the level of commitment and infrastructure in place to support smarter travel.



Aras E-bike Locker

Education and Awareness

Over 60s Climate Course - Programme Completion

An innovative climate education programme tailored specifically for individuals over the age of sixty successfully concluded this month. The six-week course was designed to empower older adults with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to take meaningful climate action in their daily lives.

Participants engaged in key topics such as:

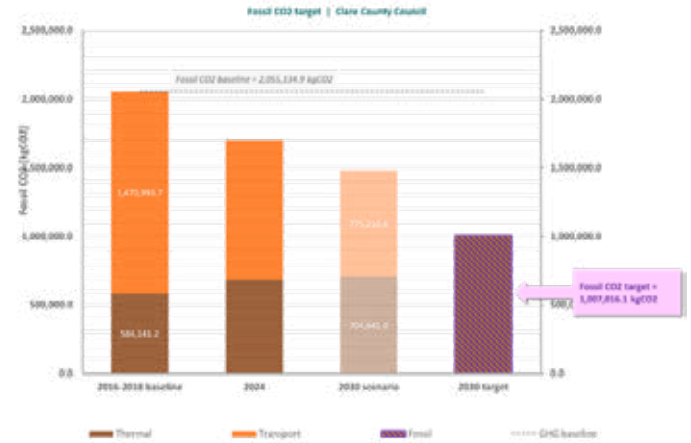
- The science of climate change
- Understanding personal carbon footprints
- Practical strategies for sustainable living

The course fostered a collaborative and reflective environment, encouraging participants to share experiences and explore realistic, community-based solutions to environmental challenges. Delivered by retired UN diplomat Jacinta Barrins, the programme also featured a series of expert guest speakers who

Energy Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) Update

Clare County Council, in line with national policy and our obligations under the Climate Action Plan, is legally required to report annual energy consumption and carbon emissions data to the SEAI's Monitoring & Reporting (M&R) system. This process ensures accountability and transparency in how we manage our energy use across all public sector operations. Beyond compliance, it provides a valuable framework to track performance, identify priority areas for improvement, and demonstrate leadership in energy efficiency and decarbonisation within the local authority sector.

Clare County Council's Climate & Energy Section recently completed reporting for the 2024 reporting period. The data highlights positive progress towards our decarbonisation targets, particularly through the increased use of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) in our fleet operations and the continued use of biomass heating in Áras Contae an Chláir. These measures have directly contributed to reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and improving our overall energy performance. Looking ahead, further advancements are planned through the decarbonisation of key Significant Energy Users (SEUs) including Áras Contae an Chláir and Active Ennis Leisure Centre, alongside ongoing energy management initiatives and capital projects aimed at reducing consumption and emissions across our property portfolio.



MNR Stats

Mid-West Energy Unit

The Mid West Energy Unit is a collaboration between the councils of Clare, Limerick and Kerry & the SEAI whose objective is to reduce emissions and increase energy efficiency to the targets set by 2030. The regional Steering Group comprising representatives from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) and the three local authorities of Clare, Limerick and Kerry convened for a second time to progress key deliverables to allow the grouping to finalise the Pre-appraisal stage and pass Approval Gate 1 in compliance with the requirements of the Infrastructure Guidelines.



RURAL WATER PROGRAMME

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

The Department has decided to take a phased approach to approval of funding with a focus on water quality issues for the first phase, namely Measures A1, A2, A3, A6 and A7. Funding applications for the Taken in Charge of Public Group Water Schemes under Measure A6 are not part of this first phase of funding. In addition, the Expert Panel is continuing its work in its evaluation of applications received under Measure A4, A5 and A9. We have informed all successful Group Water Schemes.

Group Water Scheme Taking in Charge applications continue to be progressed by the Clare Rural Water Team. The Rural Water Team is working with Group Water Schemes in assessing the

need to carry out emergency works and applying to the Department for exceptional urgent capital works for once off funding as they arise.

Applications for Group Water Scheme annual subsidy which is available to fund operational costs of group water schemes providing water for domestic use continues to be processed by this office, the closing date for claims was the 30th of June.

All applications under the 'Grant for Improvement Works to a Private Water Supply' under the Rural Water Programme continue to be processed by the Rural Water Team, 41 applications have been received to date for 2025. Post works final inspections for works within the last 12 months are ongoing.

SHANNON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Newmarket on Fergus Public Consultation

Shannon Municipal District invited the public to have their say on a potential Town and Village Renewal (TVR) plan for Newmarket on Fergus. The community was encouraged to participate in the consultation, through the parish news, information leaflet drops, an advert in a county wide newspaper and via our website. Prior to the main consultation, three public consultations took place with business owners. There was a huge turnout from the public and outgoing Cathaoirleach Pat O’Gorman, Cllr David Griffin and Cllr Tony Mulcahy were in attendance. Feedback provided by the public was used to inform the plan for Newmarket on Fergus. A Part 8 Planning Application for Newmarket on Fergus will be submitted to the Planning Department later in the year.



Community Recognition Award

Shannon MD hosted a Special Recognition Award Ceremony which celebrated exceptional individuals and groups who have made outstanding contributions to their communities. The event recognised those who have demonstrated leadership, commitment, determination and hard work at a grass-roots level. Awards were presented by the outgoing Cathaoirleach of Shannon MD, Cllr Pat O’Gorman, who commended the recipients for their dedication and positive impact. Each awardee received a formal recognition scroll and a commemorative plaque in appreciation of their service.

Among those honoured was Mr Michael Rohan, nominated by Cllr Pat O’Gorman. The Sixmilebridge ICA Guild was nominated by Cllr John Crowe, while the Shannon Banks, Westbury & Carraig Midhe Tidy Towns Group was put forward by Cllr James Ryan. Parteen Town Team was nominated by Cllr Rachel Hartigan with Mick Guinee, nominated by Cllr Tony Mulcahy. Newmarket-on-Fergus Tidy Towns was nominated by Cllr David Griffin, while Mr Bob Caulfield was nominated by Cllr Michael Begley.



Sculptures in Shannon Town Park

In a first for a public park in County Clare, Shannon MD commissioned the creation of in-situ tree sculptures, transforming the remains of felled trees in Shannon into woodland carvings that now dot the Town Park landscape.

The initiative turned a necessary public safety act of tree removal into an opportunity to promote environmental awareness and artistic reuse. The trees had been identified as unsafe in early 2025. Rather than clearing the stumps completely, Shannon Municipal District Office engaged renowned wood sculptor Will Fogarty of Fear na Coillte to breathe new life into the tree remnants.

Among the sculptures featured throughout the An Taisce International Green Flag Award-winning public park are, detailed carvings of owls, foxes, rabbits, a bumblebee and a fairy house. The Shannon MD Office, with the support of elected members, recognised an opportunity not just to manage a safety issue, but to do so in a way that aligned with the Local Authority's environmental values.



Hurlers Cross Shannon, Ardnacrusha and Parteen.

- The installation of a new section of footpath in Westbury commenced.
- A new footpath trail was completed in June in the Tullyglass Hill area of Shannon.
- Works started on a Local Improvement Scheme in Brickhill Cratloe and Newtown Clonlara.
- • Works started on a Community Improvement Scheme in Ballinpuna Cratloe
- • Works started on a Safety Improvement Scheme on Phayer's Road, Meelick
- • The grass maintenance contract for the Shannon Municipal District is ongoing.

New footpath at the old Post Office, Ardnacrusha.



Drainage works on L-3056 Parkroe, Ardnacrusha.



Footpath upgrade at Fairyfield, Parteen.



Works Underway

- Ongoing road maintenance throughout the Municipal District.
- Responding to complaints from the public, community groups and local representatives.
- Overlay works commenced in the middle of June. Due to the fine weather, overlay works were completed in Athlunkard, Meelick and Newmarket on Fergus.
- General maintenance to the intake tanks were completed for storm water pump house 6 at Illumanagh in Shannon.
- A new footpath and associated works were completed in

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

New footpath at Hurlers Cross, Shannon.



Construction of a new footpath at Tullyglass Hill, Shannon.



New pathway at Tullyglass, Shannon.



Recycling of a damaged tree at Shannon Town Park.



Road surfacing works at Newmarket on Fergus.



Construction of a new footpath at Hurlers Cross, Shannon.



Maintenance works to Storm Water Pump House 6, Shannon.



Resurfacing works at Athlunkard, Meelick.

