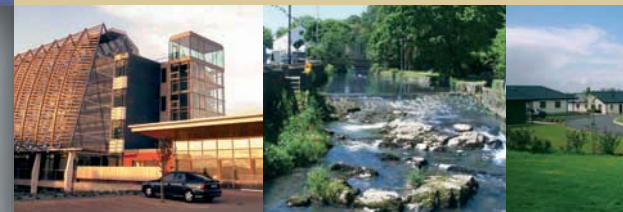




Limerick County Council
Comhairle Chontae Luimnigh

2006

annual report
Tuarascáil Bhliantúil

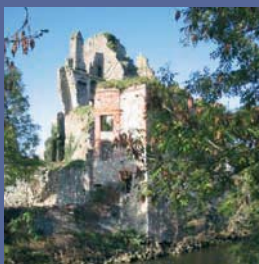




MISSION STATEMENT

To enhance the lives of the people of County Limerick through the efficient delivery of accessible quality services, with a focus on social inclusion and the promotion of sustainable balanced development.

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Limerick County Council

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A Message from the Cathaoirleach

As Cathaoirleach of Limerick County Council, it gives me great pleasure to introduce the 2006 Annual Report as it affords me the opportunity to reflect on a year which has passed by all too quickly.

This was the busiest year to date in the Rural Water Programme; funds in excess of €9m were expended under the various actions, with the majority being spent on the delivery of the Design, Build and Operate Project. In Limerick, 18 privately sourced schemes are participating in this project to provide modern water treatment facilities. In addition, work on the Water Conservation Project continued and by the year-end a total of 4302 leaks had been identified in the water distribution network since the project commenced in 2002. The invaluable work of the Water Conservation Project continues to have a very positive impact on the level of service provided by the Council.

The Planning area has continued to generate a lot of interest in 2006. The year saw a further increase in applications activity with the number of applications received for the period reaching 4062. This is the highest number of applications ever recorded in one year by Limerick County Council. The Forward Planning Section was also very active with Local Area Plans adopted for Bruff and Hospital and draft Local Area Plans also prepared for Kilfinnane and Rathkeale. I am delighted to report that Local Area Plans have now been prepared for 18 areas in the County. Many hours were worked by both staff and councillors to ensure that the adoption of these Plans was concluded in the short time frame allowed.

While the provision of infrastructure is essential for the development of our county, a number of advances were also made in the quality of life area, which are of equal importance. To mention but a few initiatives, I am delighted with the commencement of work on the new swimming pool and leisure centre in Askeaton. The multi faceted Programme of the County Arts Office, which included drama/theatre workshops, music concerts and the launch of an integrated dance programme, is to be highly commended. The Library service also had a busy year thanks to a substantial grant received under The National Disability Strategy, which facilitated extensive access work to be carried out in 12 of the County's libraries. Under the Community, Sports and Cultural Grants Scheme, a total of €470,000 was awarded during the year to assist with the development of community, recreational, sporting, environmental and cultural facilities in the county.

Environmental issues are very important to me and one of the pleasant aspects of my term involved the presentation of prizes at the annual Environmental Achievement Awards. Only when one is directly involved can you appreciate the amount of work ongoing throughout our communities. Tidy Town Associations, Community Groups and schools throughout the County are all deeply committed to improving our environment and it is a great honour to have a chance to publicly praise and thank all these volunteers.

This is just a snapshot of some of the important work carried out on behalf of the people of County Limerick and a more detailed analysis is set out in the report itself.

I wish to thank the County Manager for his assistance during my term of office. A sincere thank you to the Senior Management Team and indeed all the staff of the Council for their hard work, dedication and assistance in what was a hectic but very enjoyable

twelve months. Finally, I wish to acknowledge the role that my fellow councillors played in driving this County forward, I thank them most sincerely for their efforts.



A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Eddie Creighton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eddie Creighton
Cathaoirleach

A Message from the County Manager

It gives me great pleasure as County Manager to welcome the publication of the Annual Report for 2006. The report highlights the critical role played by Limerick County Council in the economic, social and cultural development of County Limerick.

The year 2006 was an extremely busy one for Limerick County Council during which considerable progress was achieved across a broad spectrum of services, functions and activities in which the Council engages.

The details of the Council's achievements are set out under each Directorates' report but I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the very important work, which was carried out on behalf of the people of County Limerick during the year.

Our environmental services continue to grow in importance and in 2006 we saw the opening of a third Civic Amenity Centre for the County. By constructing the facility at Mungret, the Council is demonstrating its commitment to enhancing the environment of our county by providing an accessible, affordable waste management facility for householders. The Limerick Clare Kerry Waste Management Region, of which we are part, is one of the strongest and most progressive waste management regions in the Country. In our region there is a willingness to drive waste management and in particular we have seen great progress in the provision of infrastructure, the regulation of the waste industry and the promotion of waste awareness across the region. This regional commitment is paying off and recycling rates in the region are growing from year on year, from single figures in 1999 to a household waste recycling rate of 34%. We also had the publication of the Replacement Waste Management Plan for the period 2006-2011 in June.

In the field of transportation and infrastructure work continues on a number of projects. The contract for Phase II of the Limerick Southern Ring Road was signed in August 2006. I am delighted to report that work on this major project is progressing well and the scheme is scheduled for completion in 2010. Furthermore, in November 2006, the Council awarded the contract to design and build the N7 Nenagh to Limerick High Quality Dual Carriageway to Bothar Hibernian N7 JV. In 2006, a major review of the specimen design for the N21 Adare Bypass was undertaken which culminated in the submission of a revised Environmental Impact Statement and Compulsory Purchase Order to the National Roads Authority for final review and approval to publish.

The programme for the repair and improvement of non-national roads continues. I am conscious of the importance of these roads to the local communities they serve.

During 2006 further progress on the Council's ambitious House Building Programme was achieved with the completion of 96 houses and the purchase of a further 16 at various locations throughout the County. Works were also progressed in the Traveller Accommodation, Homeless Services and Estate Management Programmes.

Creating a society with an emphasis on Social Inclusion is a core issue for Local Government and Limerick County Council recognises that meeting the needs of local people with disabilities is one of its core objectives. Much work was achieved in this area throughout the year which included initiatives to improve accessibility to Council services. In addition, improvement works and accessibility audits were carried out at various locations throughout the County.

I am indebted to the staff of Limerick County Council who delivered substantial infrastructure, maintained and enhanced

services and have been leaders in the public service. I wish to express my thanks to the Cathaoirleach together with all the members of the Council for their assistance, support and co-operation throughout the year. I also extend a sincere thank you to the Chairpersons of the Strategic Policy Committees, for the significant contribution made to the development of policies. We have many challenges facing the County but we in Limerick County Council are fortunate to have such a dedicated team committed to addressing the needs of the County.



**Ned Gleeson,
County Manager**

MEMBERS OF LIMERICK COUNTY COUNCIL

Bruff Electoral Area



Rose Brennan
14, Park Avenue,
Adare,
Co. Limerick (PD)



Richard Butler
Dooradoyle Road,
Dooradoyle,
Co. Limerick. (FG)



John Clifford
Crean, Bruff,
Kilmallock,
Co. Limerick. (FF)



Niall Collins
3, Mount Russell,
Fr. Russell Road,
Dooradoyle,
Co. Limerick. (FF)



Leonard Enright
Ballyanrahan,
Patrickswell,
Co. Limerick. (FF)



Cormac Hurley
94, Sheelin Road,
Caherdavin Park,
Co. Limerick. (FG)



Deirdre Ní Chinnéide
2, Dromore Rise,
Raheen,
Co. Limerick. (Lab)

Castleconnell Electoral Area

Leas Cathaoirleach
2006 – 2007



Noel Gleeson
Cullenagh,
Cappamore,
Co. Limerick. (FF)



Mary Harty
Corelish West,
Pallasgrean,
Co. Limerick. (FG)



Kieran O'Donnell
8, Milltown Manor,
Monaleen, Castletroy,
Co. Limerick. (FG)



Mary Jackman
Newtown,
Castletroy,
Co. Limerick. (FG)



Noreen Ryan
Lacka, Castleconnell,
Co. Limerick. (FF)



Brigid Teefy
Ballybricken,
Grange,
Co. Limerick. (PD)



Eddie Wade
Cahemorry,
Drombanna,
Co. Limerick. (FF)

Kilmallock Electoral Area

Cathaoirleach
2006 – 2007



Eddie Creighton
9, St. Joseph's
Terrace, Hospital,
Co. Limerick. (PD)



John Gallahue
Main Street,
Ballylanders,
Co. Limerick. (FF)



James Houlihan
Stylepark, Bruree,
Co. Limerick. (FG)



Patrick McAuliffe
Railway Road,
Kilmallock,
Co. Limerick. (FF)

MEMBERS OF LIMERICK COUNTY COUNCIL

Newcastle Electoral Area



Michael Collins
Ballinvallig,
Newcastle West,
Co. Limerick. (FF)



Francis Foley
33, Collins Park,
Abbeyfeale,
Co. Limerick. (FF)



Liam Galvin
Ballaugh,
Abbeyfeale,
Co. Limerick. (FG)



Patrick O'Donovan
Churchtown Road,
Newcastle West,
Co. Limerick. (FG)



Jerome Scanlan
Ballydonnell,
Feohanagh,
Co. Limerick. (FG)

Rathkeale Electoral Area



John Griffin
Main Street,
Rathkeale,
Co. Limerick. (FF)



David Naughton
Ballysteen,
Askeaton,
Co. Limerick. (FG)



Tom Neville
Croagh, Rathkeale,
Co. Limerick. (FG)



John Sheahan
Ballyguilenane,
Glin,
Co. Limerick. (FG)



Kevin Sheahan
Cloonreask,
Askeaton,
Co. Limerick. (FF)

Cathaoirleach
2006 – 2007

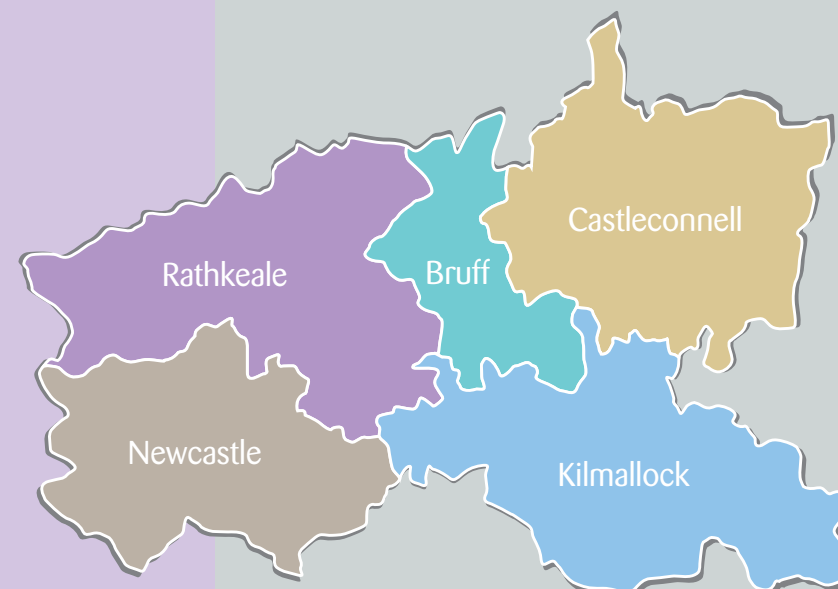


Eddie Creighton

Leas Chathaoirleach
2006 – 2007



Noel Gleeson





Councillor Eddie Creighton, Cathaoirleach and Councillor Noel Gleeson, Leas Cathaoirleach, at the AGM in June.

Council Members and Meetings

There are 28 members on the council - 7 members in the Bruff and Castleconnell Electoral Areas, 5 members in the Newcastle and Rathkeale Electoral Areas and 4 members in the Kilmallock Electoral Area.

Council Meetings are normally held on the fourth Monday of each month (except August when there is no meeting) in the Council Chamber at County Hall. The full Council met on 16 occasions (excluding committee meetings).

CORPORATE POLICY GROUP

The Corporate Policy Group (C.P.G.) is a Committee of the Council consisting of the Cathaoirleach of the Council and the Chairs of each of the Strategic Policy Committees. Membership is as follows:

- Councillor Eddie Creighton, Cathaoirleach and Chairperson Social Cultural and Community Development SPC
- Councillor Jerome Scanlan, Chairperson Housing SPC
- Councillor Michael Collins, Chairperson Transportation and Infrastructural SPC
- Councillor Noreen Ryan, Chairperson Planning and Development SPC
- Councillor Mary Harty, Chairperson Environmental SPC

The C.P.G. links the work of the different S.P.C.'s; acts as a type of cabinet and provides a forum where policy positions can be agreed for submission to the full Council which will retain the decision making authority. The C.P.G. also monitors the performance of the local authority and plays a key role in preparing the budget. The C.P.G. met on 2 occasions.

COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

Strategic Policy Committees

Title	No. of Members	No. of Meetings
Housing	18	4
Infrastructural	18	5
Planning and Development	18	5
Social, Cultural and Community Development	15	3
Environmental	15	5

Electoral Area Committees

Title	No. of Members	No. of Meetings
Bruff Area	7	11
Castleconnell Area	7	11
Kilmallock Area	4	10
Newcastle Area	5	13
Rathkeale Area	5	16

Other Committees

Title	No. of Members	No. of Meetings
Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee	12	3
Rural Water Committee	9	3

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES

Each Strategic Policy Committee comprises of elected Councillors and sectoral representatives, working together in a

more participative form of democracy, thereby providing a more effective policy focus on the functions and activities carried out by Limerick County Council. Each SPC is supported in its work by a Director of Services. While each SPC formulates and develops policy, the final decisions will rest ultimately with the full Council.

Planning & Development SPC:

Chairperson	Councillor N. Ryan
Members:	Councillor K. Sheahan. Councillor E. Wade. Councillor J. Clifford. Councillor J. Griffin. Councillor N. Gleeson. Councillor D. Ní Chinnéide. Councillor M. Jackman. Councillor K. O'Donnell. Councillor J. Scanlan. Councillor D. Naughton. Councillor J. Sheahan.

Sectoral Representatives

Development/Construction & Business/Commercial

- Mr. Liam Ryan, Managing Director, BMS Ireland, Ballysimon Road, Limerick.
- Mr. Tony O'Shea, Knock Estates, 12A Knockhill, Ennis Road, Limerick.

Community & Voluntary, including Environment, Conservation, Culture and Disadvantaged

- Ms. Ann Gill, Patrickswell Community Council, Knockanes, Patrickswell, Co. Limerick.
- Mr. Charles Richardson, Knockcarron Community Council, c/o Moanmore, Emly, Co. Tipperary.
- Mr. Jeremiah O'Connor, Athea GAA Club, 'Dalcon', Upper Athea, Athea, Co. Limerick.

Agriculture/Farming

- Mr. John Walsh, Cloughnadromin, Ballysimon, Co. Limerick.

Planning & Development SPC

Councillor Noreen Ryan is Chairperson of the Planning & Development Strategic Policy Committee. This committee which comprises 12 Councillors and 6 sectoral representatives met on 5 occasions. Policy items discussed included;

- Serviced Sites Initiative,
- Review of the Housing Strategy 2005 - 2011
- Proposed Variation to the County Development Plan to take account of the additional areas covered by the 'Extended Clár Programme' and other areas with low levels of population.
- Waiver process in relation to development contributions for people with disabilities
- Policy on Telecommunication Masts

Social, Cultural and Community Development SPC:

Chairperson Councillor E. Creighton .
 Members: Councillor R. Brennan.
 Councillor F. Foley.
 Councillor Ml. Collins.
 Councillor P. McAuliffe.
 Councillor L. Enright.
 Councillor P. O'Donovan.
 Councillor C. Hurley.
 Councillor D. Naughton.
 Councillor L. Galvin.

Sectoral Representatives*Development/Construction & Business/Commercial*

- Mr. John Quinn, Quinn Savage Smyth Architects, 12 Barrington St., Limerick.

Community & Voluntary, including Environment, Conservation, Culture and Disadvantaged

- Ms. Joan Dempsey, Bruff Social Services, Ballyreesode, Bruff, Co. Limerick.
- Mr. Seamus Hunt, St. Vincent de Paul, c/o Dromindeel, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.

- Mr. Seamus Ryan, Kilfinane and Coshlea Historical Society, Low Bridge, Kilfinane, Co. Limerick.

Agriculture/Farming

- Mr. Robert Ruttle, Kilbreedy, Kildimo, Co. Limerick.

Social, Cultural and Community Development SPC:

The Social, Cultural & Community Development Strategic Policy Committee met on 3 occasions. A number of issues were considered and discussed including:

- Limerick County Comhairle na nOg 2005/2006 report.
- 'Fair Trade Status'
- 2006 Arts Grants
- Clár Programme 2006
- University of Limerick's Sports Facilities & Activities
- Tidy Towns / Taskforce on Active Citizenship
- Limerick County Library Service

Transportation and Infrastructural SPC:

Chairperson Councillor Ml. Collins
 Members: Councillor R. Brennan.
 Councillor B. Teefy.
 Councillor P. McAuliffe.
 Councillor N. Collins.
 Councillor J. Gallahue.
 Councillor K. Sheahan.
 Councillor L. Galvin.
 Councillor J. Houlihan.
 Councillor K. O'Donnell.
 Councillor T. Neville.
 Councillor M. Jackman.

Sectoral Representatives*Development/Construction & Business/Commercial*

- Mr. John McInerney, PJ Hegarty & Sons Ltd., Mount Kennett Place, Limerick.

- Mr. Peter Ryan, Director, Argosea Services, 25 William Street, Limerick.

Community & Voluntary, including Environment, Conservation, Culture and Disadvantaged

- Mr. Sean Donovan, Loughill Community Development Association, Loughill West, Co. Limerick.

- Mr. Denis McAuliffe, Great Southern Trail Ltd., Meenoline South, Templeglantine, Co. Limerick.

Agriculture/Farming

- Mr. Aidan Gleeson, Coolaemy, Ballyorgan, Co. Limerick.

Trade Union

- Mr. William Davoren, SIPTU, Doon House, Elm Park, Clarina, Co. Limerick.

Transportation & Infrastructural SPC :

The Council's Transportation & Infrastructural Committee met on 5 occasions. Items discussed by the Committee include:

- Public Service Vehicle Licensing
- Traffic Calming Policy
- Public Lighting Policy
- Signage
- Burial Grounds
- Assessment of Needs - Water Services
- Local Improvement Schemes
- Taking in Charge of Estates

Environmental SPC:

Chairperson	Councillor M Harty
Members:	Councillor E. Creighton.
	Councillor J. Griffin.
	Councillor L. Enright.
	Councillor J. Gallahue.
	Councillor D. Ni Chinnéide
	Councillor P. O'Donovan.
	Councillor R. Butler.
	Councillor J. Houlihan.
	Councillor C. Hurley.

Sectoral Representatives*Development/Construction & Business/Commercial*

- Mr. Trevor Montgomery, Senior Environment Engineer, Aughinish Alumina, Askeaton, Co. Limerick.

Community & Voluntary, including Environment, Conservation, Culture and Disadvantaged

- Mr. Michael Buckley, Recycling for a Better Future, Main Street, Ballylanders, Co. Limerick.
- Mr. Michael Ryan, Oola Tidy Towns, 'Bwthyn Mihangel', Chapel Lane, Oola, Co. Limerick.
- Mr. Joe Whelan, Askeaton Community Council, Clounreask, Askeaton, Co. Limerick.

Agriculture/Farming

- Mr. Ger Quane, Creggane, Charleville, Co. Cork.

Environmental SPC

The environmental SPC met on 5 occasions. The Work Programme for 2006 included the Litter Management Plan, Policies in relation to Energy Awareness and Conservation, Policy in relation to use of Recreational Open Space facilities, Regional Waste Management Plan, Household survey in relation to waste management.

During the year the range of topics discussed were:

- Adoption of the Derelict Sites Policy
- Regional Waste Management Plan
- City Environs Neighbourhood Park Survey
- Recreational Open Space Facilities
- Household Refuse Collection Service -Waiver Scheme
- Sustainable Energy Ireland -Greener Homes Scheme
- Policy on the use of Bio-Fuel in Council vehicles
- Review of Acceptance Procedures at Civic Amenity Sites
- Dog Fouling

Presentations were given on:

- Limerick County Council's Civil Defence Service
- Shannon River Basin Project and
- Review of the Limerick/Clare/Kerry Regional Waste Management Plan

Housing SPC

Chairperson	Councillor J. Scanlan
Members:	Councillor B. Teefy.
	Councillor E. Wade.
	Councillor J. Clifford.
	Councillor N. Ryan.
	Councillor N. Collins.
	Councillor F. Foley.
	Councillor N. Gleeson.
	Councillor T. Neville.
	Councillor R. Butler.
	Councillor M. Harty.
	Councillor J. Sheahan.

Sectoral Representatives*Development/Construction & Business/Commercial*

- Mr. Liam McArdle, Custom Construction, Foxfield, Dooradoyle Road, Limerick.

Community & Voluntary, including Environment, Conservation, Culture and Disadvantaged

- Ms. Alice McAuliffe, Dromin & Athlacca Housing Project, 'Shalom', Athlacca, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick.
- Mr. Larry Begley, Mountcollins Development Association, Mountcollins, Co. Limerick.
- Mr. Kevin Flynn, West Limerick Independent Living Limited, c/o Leahys, Foynes, Co. Limerick.
- Ms. Angela Quilligan, Desmond's Women's Group, Knockane, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.

Trade Union

- Ms. Brid Foley, MANDATE, Greenhills, Crecora, Co. Limerick.

Housing SPC

The Housing Strategic Policy Committee met on 4 occasions and discussed a range of issues including -

- Role of Limerick/Clare Energy Agency
- Discussion Document on Anti Social Behaviour
- Draft Policy of Housing Application and Transfers
- Update on Central Heating Programme
- Draft Housing Strategy
- Disabled Persons Grants, Essential Repairs Grants, Mortgage Allowance Scheme, Improvement Works in Lieu of Rehousing, Extension to Local Authority Housing in lieu of Rehousing.
- Social and Affordable Housing Review
- Draft Homeless Strategy & Action Plan
- Presentation on New Housing Services Company
- Provision of Ramps to facilitate Disabled in Council Housing Estates

REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES

1. Association of County and City Councils (formerly General Council of County Councils)

Councillor David Naughton.
Councillor Leonard Enright.
Councillor Rose Brennan.

2. County Limerick Vocational Education Committee

Councillor Liam Galvin.
Councillor Mary Jackman.
Councillor John Sheahan.
Councillor John Clifford.
Councillor John Griffin.
Councillor Patrick McAuliffe.
Councillor Niall Collins.
Councillor Rose Brennan.
Councillor Brigid Teefy.

3. Mid-West Regional Authority

Councillor Kieran O'Donnell.
Councillor Cormac Hurley.
Councillor James Houlihan.
Councillor Leonard Enright.
Councillor Eddie Creighton,
Councillor Eddie Wade.
Councillor Noel Gleeson.
Operational Committee of Mid-West Regional Authority
Cathaoirleach, Councillor Eddie Creighton
Councillor Leonard Enright (From September 2006 to June 2007)

4. Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly

Councillor Eddie Creighton.
Councillor Leonard Enright.

5. Limerick Market Trustees

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Eddie Creighton
Councillor Deirdre Ní Chinnéide.
Councillor Mary Jackman.
Councillor Kieran O'Donnell.
Councillor Niall Collins.
Councillor Brigid Teefy.
Councillor Kevin Sheahan.
Councillor Francis Foley.
Councillor Michael Collins.
Management Committee of Limerick Market Trustees
Councillor Kevin Sheahan.
Councillor Niall Collins.

6. Shannon Foynes Port Company

Councillor Kevin Sheahan.

7. Library Association of Ireland

Councillor Kevin Sheahan.

8. Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances:

Councillor Niall Collins.

9. Local Authority Members' Association

Councillor Kevin Sheahan.

10. National University of Ireland, Cork - Governing Authority

Councillor Paddy McAuliffe.

11. University of Limerick - Governing Authority

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Eddie Creighton

Advisory Committee, Graduate Medical Programme,
University of Limerick
Cathaoirleach, Councillor Eddie Creighton.

12. Adare Heritage Trust Ltd.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Eddie Creighton

13. Limerick County Enterprise Board

Councillor Mary Harty.
Councillor Brigid Teefy.
Councillor Michael Collins.
Councillor Noreen Ryan.

14. West Limerick Resources Ltd.

Councillor Liam Galvin.
Councillor Michael Collins.
Councillor Niall Collins.

15. Ballyhoura Development Limited

Councillor Pat McAuliffe.
Councillor James Houlihan.

16.RCCN (Rural Community Care Network)

Councillor Francis Foley.
Councillor Jerome Scanlan.

17. TIPPERARY LEADER GROUP

Councillor Noel Gleeson.

18.LIMERICK/BALLYBROPHY RAIL LINK PARTNERSHIP GROUP:

Councillor Mary Jackman.
Councillor Eddie Wade.

19.Hunt Museums Trust

Councillor John Griffin.

20. Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

Councillor John Griffin.
Councillor Mary Jackman.
Councillor Pat McAuliffe.
Councillor Francis Foley.
Councillor Patrick O'Donovan.

21.County Rural Water Committee

Councillor John Griffin.
Councillor John Gallahue.
Councillor James Houlihan.

22. River Basin District Advisory Councils:

(a) Shannon River Basin District Advisory Council

1. Councillor Eddie Wade.
2. Councillor John Griffin.

(b) South-Eastern River Basin District Advisory Council

1. Councillor Eddie Creighton.
2. Councillor Patrick O'Donovan.

(c) South-Western River Basin District Advisory Council

1. Councillor Mary Jackman.
2. Councillor Kevin Sheahan.

23.Regional Health Forum West

Councillor Noreen Ryan.
Councillor Leonard Enright.
Councillor Brigid Teefy.
Councillor Richard Butler.

24.County Development Board

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Eddie Creighton
Councillor Noreen Ryan
Councillor Michael Collins
Councillor Mary Harty
Councillor Jerome Scanlan

HIGHLIGHTS of 2006

3



4



1



2



5



1. Presentation of Recognition Awards for Water Safety
2. Presentation of Environmental Educator Award to Kilcormac School
3. Demonstration of EU Direct for the Cathaoirleach and the Commissioner at Dooradoyle Library

4. Civic Reception for Donald Green
5. Signing of Agreement to launch the GAA Signage Pilot Programme

HIGHLIGHTS of 2006



7

6



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8



10

6. Comhairle na n-Óg
7. Presentation of Awards at Caherelly NS
8. Opening of Civic Amenity Centre, Mungret

9. Laying of Foundation Stone – Askeaton Swimming Pool
10. Opening of Extended Fire Station and Blessing of New Fire Appliance at Abbeyfeale.

HIGHLIGHTS of 2006



12



11



13



15



14

11. Launch of the Local Authority Prevention Demonstration Programme –Regional Project

12. Aerial View of Preliminary Works on Tunnel Element Casting Basin at Coonagh

13. Civic Reception – John Dillon and the IFA

14. Presentation of Certificates in First Aid, Power Boating & Navigation, to Civil Defence Members

15. Signing of Contract for N7 Nenagh to Limerick Dual Carriageway

HIGHLIGHTS of 2006



16



18



20



17



19

16. Housing Development at Fairview, Rathkeale

17. Signing of Regional Replacement Waste Management Plan 2006-2011

18. Long Service Awards Function 2006

19. Presentation of Arts Bursary Award to Jessica Bray

20. Cathaoirleach of Limerick County Council, Councillor Brigid Teehy and Mayor of Limerick City, Councillor Diarmuid Scully, welcoming home the victorious Munster Rugby Team.



ROADS

“ **To provide and maintain a safe and effective transportation network within the County incorporating the principles of sustainable development, social inclusion and environmentally friendly work practices** ”

MAJOR ROADS SCHEMES

LIMERICK SOUTHERN RING ROAD PHASE II

The Limerick Southern Ring Road Phase II project, which will incorporate a fourth crossing of the River Shannon, involves the construction of 9.75 km of new dual carriageway, along with associated link roads and side roads, linking the N7 Limerick Southern Ring Road Phase 1 and N20 Cork/Kerry Road in the area of Rosbrien with the N18 Galway Road near Cratloe Castle. The project also includes for a tunnel crossing of the River Shannon of approximately 900m in length.

Following a lengthy tender process a contract was signed between the National Roads Authority and the Direct Route Consortium in August, 2006. Works on this major infrastructural project are progressing well and the scheme is scheduled for completion in 2010.

N7 NENAGH TO LIMERICK HIGH QUALITY DUAL CARRIAGEWAY

This project includes the provision of approximately 28km of new high quality dual carriageway (to motorway standard) and the widening of the existing Nenagh Bypass to dual carriageway cross section (approximately 10km). It also includes 2km of new single carriageway linking the proposed N7 to the existing N7 at Birdhill, four grade separated junctions, 46 principal structures together with accommodation works, signing, lighting, fencing etc.

2006 saw substantial progress in the development of this 38km Motorway standard roadway. In November, 2006 Limerick County Council awarded the Contract to design and build the N7 Nenagh to Limerick High Quality Dual Carriageway to Bóthar Hibernian N7 JV. The members of this Consortium are Mota-Engil, (Portugal), Michael McNamara & Company and Coffey Construction Ltd. A Sod Turning Ceremony officiated by Mr. Martin Cullen, T.D., Minister for Transport, took place on 7th December, 2006.



Mr. Martin Cullen T.D. Minister for Transport turning the Sod for the N7 Nenagh to Limerick High Quality Dual Carriageway 7th December 2006

ADARE BYPASS

2006 saw a major review of the specimen design for the N21 Adare Bypass. The scheme which was being developed as a '2+1' road type was revised to dual carriageway standard. The scheme was also extended to include the widening of the existing N21 to dual carriageway from the eastern end of the proposed bypass to the end of the existing dual carriageway at Attyflin. Therefore the N21 Adare Bypass project will include 6.5km of new dual carriageway and 1.5km of widening to dual carriageway standard. This significant change will provide continuous dual carriageway road from Limerick City to the west of Adare.

Upon completion of the revised specimen design the draft Environmental Impact Statement and Compulsory Purchase Order were reviewed, amended and submitted to the National Roads Authority in November 2006 for final review and approval to publish.

Transportation and Water Services



Paul Crowe
Director of Transportation
& Water Services



Construction of new Limerick Southern Ring Road Phase 11
Mainline & Dock Road Interchange

N21 AND N24 STRATEGIES

Further preliminary studies were undertaken to develop a strategy of improvement needs for the N21 between Adare and the Limerick Kerry county bounds and the N24 from Ballysimon to connect with the Pallasgreen to Bansha Scheme. These strategies will form the basis for funding requirements going forward and will facilitate these National Routes to be upgraded to the required standard on a sequential basis.

Other Road Improvement Schemes

Continued improvements were also made to the National Road Network in 2006. Works carried out consisted of road surface overlays, including road markings and signage on the following roads:

- **N20 Road Improvements:** (4km) Banogue to Hynes Cross
- **N21 Road Improvements:** (5.8km) Coolanoran to Cregan's Cross and from Killarney Pole to Barnagh
- **N24 Road Improvements:** (5.1km) Oola to the County Boundary and Pallasgreen to Dromkeen
- **N69 Road Improvements:** (2.7km) Aughinish to Foynes (Junction with R521)



Kilfinane Urban Renewal

Other significant capital works carried out in 2006 include:
Kilfinane Urban Renewal

Works consisted of the construction of a 'split-level' centre piece in the square, footpaths, road re-surfacing, paved pedestrian/vehicle surfaces, landscaping, public lighting, undergrounding of wirescape and road markings.

St. Nesson's Road Improvements:

Improvement works included for road re-construction and overlay, footpaths, cycle lanes, an inbound bus lane, a new roundabout at junction with Father Russell Road, public lighting, traffic signals.

Plassey Park Road Improvements:

Completion of improvement works including road re-construction and overlay, footpaths, cycle lanes, public lighting and traffic signals.

N21 Abbeyfeale Traffic Calming:

Scheme included for the construction of a traffic calming scheme on the Eastern approach to the town. Works included for gateway construction, footpaths, traffic signals, kerbed build-outs and road markings.

Cork Road Bridge Improvements, Newcastle West:

Completion of construction of a new bridge adjacent to the 'Bridge of Tears', the construction of a new roundabout and realignment of the Regional Roads R522 and R520.

Annacotty to Newtown Improvements Phase 1:

Completion of the Annacotty to Newtown Phase 1 Scheme. Works included for road re-construction/overlay, footpaths, public lighting, drainage, water mains.



Cork Road Bridge Newcastle West

R445 Ennis Road Improvements:

Construction commenced on the construction of a new inbound bus lane from Coonagh Roundabout to Caherdavin Cross. Works also include for footpaths, public lighting, cycle lanes and road markings.

N21 Goulbourn Bridge Replacement:

Completion of replacement of existing Goulbourn Bridge, West of Templeglantine Cross

Low Cost Accident Remedial Schemes:

Low Cost Accident Remedial Schemes were carried out at 8 junctions in the National Routes. Works typically included for improved road markings and signage. Works were carried out at the following locations:-

- N7 from Daly's Cross to the Bog Road Junction
- N20 at Ballymacrory Cross, Banogue Village and Rockhill Cross
- N21 at Coffey's Cross
- N69 at Bolane, Wallace's Cross and Clarina Cross.

Non - National Roads

The non national roads budget, excluding public lighting, was €21.110 million. This comprised of a Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government allocation of €16.859m and €4.251m from our own resources. Works carried out included:

Type of Road	Surface Dressing	Road Re - Construction
Regional	28kms	17.28kms
Local	168kms	93.151kms

The grant allocation for EU Co-Financed schemes was €3.130M in 2006 and eight projects received funding under this scheme, two of which were St Nesson's Road Dooradoyle (R526) and the R503 Limerick to Thurles Road.

Public Lighting:

The present stock of 10,300 public lights in Co. Limerick cost €1,074,759 between the associated energy and maintenance charges.

School Flashing Lights

Solar powered school flashing lights were installed at 105 schools around the county in 2006. These lights are activated at programmed times which are necessary to cover child crossing movements during those times when the children are entering or leaving the school.

ROAD SAFETY**Cycling Safety Training**

The success of the Cycling Safety and Skills Programme continued during 2006 with pupils participating from Kilmallock, Newcastle West, Tournafulla, Crecora, Patrickswell, Oola, Bruree, Cappamore, Croom, Ballybrown and Killinine National Schools.

This programme covers cycling safety theory, bicycle care and practical bicycle safety and skills training. The course is conducted over a six to seven week period on school grounds and is planned to work into the P.E. timetable.

The programme received support funding from the Road Safety Authority (formerly the National Safety Council) in 2006.

Feedback from teachers, pupils and parents continues to be extremely positive and encouraging. The Council is delighted to be associated with this initiative and would hope that this programme will continue to be received with such enthusiasm in 2007.

Junior School Warden Scheme

Junior School Wardens in Rathkeale, Kilmallock and Ballylanders all continued to provide safe crossing facilities for their fellow schoolmates in 2006. Over the years there has been huge commitment from teachers, pupils, Gardai and parents to ensure the success of the scheme, which has been in operation throughout the County since 1975.

The Annual Regional Junior School Warden Final was held in Shannon, Co. Clare in May 2006. Schools from Kerry, Limerick, Clare, South Tipperary and Waterford participated.

The boys and girls from Ballylanders National School took first place in the competition, while the girls from St. Anne's National School Rathkeale, took third place. Congratulations to the winning teams and well done to all who participated.



Ballylanders Junior School Wardens - winners of the Regional Final 2006

CYCLING SAFETY & SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAMME

YEAR	SCHOOL	NO. OF PUPILS WHO PARTICIPATED
2005	Croom N.S.	34
	Ballyagran N.S.	53
	Feenagh N.S. Kilmallock	27
	Ardpatrick N.S. Kilmallock	32
	St Joseph's N.S. Ballybrown	51
	Doon N.S.	21
	Bruff N.S.	50
	Sub Total	268
2006	Glengurt N.S. Tournafulla	25
	Granagh N.S. Kilmallock	28
	Courtenays School, Newcastle West	25
	Scoil Iosaf N.S. Newcastle West	28
	Crecora N.S. Patrickswell	80
	Oola N.S.	43
	Bruree N.S.	30
	Sub Total	527

HORTICULTURE

National Tree Week 2006 took place from 5th to 11th March and was jointly sponsored by O2 and Coillte. Limerick County Council launched the week with the planting of an oak tree in the grounds of the Millennium Centre, Caherconlish, Co. Limerick by Councillor Brigid Teefy, Cathaoirleach. 5,000 saplings were delivered throughout the County to community groups and schools.



Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Brigid Teefy and the late Pat O'Connor, Assistant County Manager, planting an oak tree at the Millennium Centre, Caherconlish.

The section also dealt with a number of dangerous trees and supervised the inspection and cutting of same during the year.

30,000 bedding plants were distributed to community groups in early summer. The Horticulture Section provided expert advice and guidance for Tidy Towns Committees and Community Councils around the County during the year.

The grass-cutting programme continued with approximately 502 acres of grass cut 32 times during 2006. This included cutting in ten additional housing estates.

SPECIFIC PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN INCLUDE:

Clare Glens

Repairs were carried out on bridges and steps.

Lough Gur

Maintenance of the green areas was undertaken throughout the year, including grass cutting and pruning of trees. New public conveniences were installed.

Adare Town Park

The Horticulture Section carried out routine maintenance of green areas, shrubs and borders.

Newcastle West

Maintenance work was undertaken in the Demesne, Newcastle West and 8,000 new trees planted. A new car park was created and paths tarmacked. The scenic view at Barnagh, and the approach road to Newcastle West were landscaped.

General Landscaping was undertaken at St Paul's Park, St Nessian's Road; Car park at Flying Boat Museum, Foynes; Plassey Park Road; The Square, Newcastle West; Newcastle West Library; Ennis Road, Caherdavin; Mungret Recycling Centre; St Ita's Terrace and Collins Park, Abbeyfeale; Caherconlish and Croom.

Plassey Walk

The control programme on the spraying of Giant Hogweed was continued. Paths were widened from 2ft to 7ft., the Black Bridge tarmacked, 4 new kissing gates installed and timber fencing erected along the river bank.

Roundabouts

Trees were planted and bark mulch laid at 7 roundabouts and a total of 20 roundabouts maintained.

County Hall, Dooradoyle

The Horticulture Section supervised the maintenance of indoor and outdoor plants at County Hall.

Golden Mile

The Golden Mile of Co. Limerick Competition is in its third year. There were fifteen entries in 2006 with a very good county-wide spread, including four new groups. The overall winners were Barna Residents' Association, 1st runner up was Pubblebrien Historical Society and 2nd runner up was Ballyhoura Fáilte Ltd. A further 7 groups received commendations in the various categories. A very well attended and enjoyable awards ceremony was held in the Council Chamber on 13th December in conjunction with the Burial Grounds Competition.



WATER SERVICES

To ensure the provision of adequate water supplies and wastewater disposal facilities in a manner which safeguards the environment and public health and underpins the sustainable development of the County

MAJOR CAPITAL SCHEMES

The Council's aim is to provide adequate water and wastewater services to existing settlements and also to ensure that infrastructural deficiencies do not hinder the growth of those settlements.

To assist in this process, Limerick County Council produces an Assessment of Needs for water services capital works in its area generally every 5 years and the assessment has been under review during 2006. These Assessments provide the basis for scheme scheduling and approval of successive Investment Programmes by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. The purpose of the Assessment is to develop for County Limerick 'an overall strategic investment plan for the medium to long term and to set out a programme of works to meet the identified water services needs'. The overall estimated value of the schemes identified in the latest Assessment of Needs is €163 million. In December 2005, the Minister announced details of the current Investment Programme for the period 2005-2007.

SEWERAGE SCHEMES

In recent years new public sewerage schemes have been constructed to serve the villages of Castleconnell, Fedamore and Croagh. Under the Water Services Investment Programme, significant progress has been made in relation to detailed design of schemes to serve Mungret, Kilmallock, Patrickswell and Adare and it is anticipated that preparations will be in place to allow all of these proceed to construction during 2007. In addition planning has commenced on projects to serve Askeaton, Foynes, Shanagolden, Glin, Athea, Dromcollogher, Hospital, Pallasgreen

and Bruff. The completion of these schemes in the coming years will help achieve one of the major aims of the County Development Plan i.e. the revitalisation and rejuvenation of the County's towns and villages.

WATER SCHEMES

The Council, in co-operation with Limerick City Council, is continuing to progress the development of trunk water mains systems into County Limerick. This will be facilitated by the planned upgrade of the City Council's water treatment plant at Clareville and for which a contractor has now been appointed. Elements of these trunk mains have already been constructed in conjunction with major road projects in the city environs. Construction of further elements to serve Patrickswell and Croom is likely to proceed during 2007 and planning is being progressed on a separate extension of the system to serve areas of East Limerick such as Caherconlish, Cappamore, Pallasgreen, Doon and Oola. Tenders were sought during the latter part of 2006 for an upgrade of link to Castleconnell from Clareville supply.

Planning continued to be progressed on advancing an upgrade of the Council's own Shannon Estuary Water Treatment Plant to increase production and provide enhanced environmental measures. This will also facilitate extension of the supply to serve Ballyhahill, Loughill, Glin and outlying areas. Construction of extension of the Shannon Estuary Scheme to serve the Pallaskenry/Kildimo area proceeded during the year and this will facilitate the connection of a number of rural water schemes, which are having difficulties with water quality.

SMALL TOWNS AND VILLAGES INITIATIVE

During 2006, significant progress was made by the Council in conjunction with private Developers using a Public Private Partnership approach for the provision of adequate infrastructural services at a number of locations throughout the County.

The upgrade to Kilfinnane Sewage Treatment Plant was completed and has now entered a 2-year Operate and

Maintenance period. The construction of new plants at Caherconlish and Bruree are now almost complete.

Planning permission is also in place for upgrading of Sewage Treatment Plants at Bruff, Kilmallock and Cappamore.

The Council finances its contribution to these schemes through monies generated by the Development Contribution Scheme in Planning.



Bruree Waste Water Treatment Plant

WATER CONSERVATION PROJECT

The work of the Water Conservation Project has had a major positive impact on the delivery of water to the people of County Limerick. The provision of a potable water supply entails costs in treating, pumping, storing and delivery. Active leakage control and pressure management within the County has resulted in water savings in the region of 3100m³/day (682,000 gals/day) approximately. Water Conservation also has a major benefit to the environment, less water used, means more water stays in its natural environment.

At the end of 2006, 4302 leaks had been identified in the water distribution network since the project commenced in 2002. During the current year 778 leaks were identified in the network.

Also, during 2006, a review of water treatment plant energy usage was undertaken in conjunction with the plant caretakers. The resultant measures, which have been implemented, have resulted in increased efficiencies and cost savings.

In 2007, it is anticipated that the district metering contract will proceed which will provide the Project team with greater ability to compile both demand and performance data and also to undertake more in depth network management.

The work of the Water Conservation Project and its staff continues to have a positive impact on the level of service provided by Limerick County Council.

RURAL WATER PROGRAMME

2006 has proven to be the busiest year to date since the programme was formally devolved to local authorities in 1997. Funds in excess of €9m were claimed under the various actions, with the majority being spent on the delivery of the DBO project.

DBO Project for Group Water Supply Schemes

In Co. Limerick 18 privately sourced schemes are participating in the Design Build and Operate project for the provision of modern water treatment facilities, which will enable the groups to comply with the requirements of the Drinking Water Regulations. The contract for the project was signed in October 2005. The construction phase of the project is due for completion in February 2007 with the Operation and Maintenance Phase commencing thereafter. €3.9m was invested in this project during 2006.

Advance and Enabling Works for the DBO project bundle

Limerick County Council recognised that a considerable amount of work was needed to ensure that the group water schemes infrastructure was upgraded to operate in the most efficient and cost effective manner prior to the completion of the main DBO project. Works involved critical water mains refurbishment, reservoir replacement and universal metering in order to promote water conservation in private schemes throughout the County. A total of €833,000 in grant aid was paid during 2006.

- Water mains were replaced in Lough Gur, Kilfinny, Granagh, and Caherline/ Newtown.
- Universal metering was completed in Bulgaden, Granagh, Kileedy, and Lough Gur.
- Construction of reservoirs took place in Kileedy, Granagh and Carnane.

Refurbishment Grants to Existing Groups

Watermains refurbishment works were carried out in Kilfinny, Cappagh, Kileedy, Glenroe, Coshma, and Carnane. The resources invested in County Limerick during 2006 amounted to €1.53 million.

Refurbishment and Takeover of Group Schemes

Resources to the value of €1.42 million were invested in this action. Upgrading works were undertaken in the following locations: Ashroe, Ballyshonick, Kilcornan, Coolcappagh and Glenastar to enable these schemes to be taken in charge by Limerick Council in the near future.

Three group schemes were formally taken in charge during 2006: Creeves, Corcamore and Breska Beg.

Subsidy to Group Water Schemes

The Council continues to provide grant aid to private group water schemes to assist them in meeting their annual operational expenses. The total value of grants paid under this action amounted to €426,957 in 2006.

Grant for Individual Well Supplies

118 applications were received during the year and 74 grants to the value of €132,120 were paid.

Small Capital Schemes

Funds in the amount of €769,000 were invested in a programme of improvement works on both public water supply and sewerage schemes. This grant aid of 75% with a matching contribution of funding by Limerick County Council of 25% allows resources to be invested, ensuring that the water services infrastructure is improved and upgraded on an ongoing basis.

Examples of the works undertaken include refurbishment of the water main in Caherconlish, chlorination of the Ardpark water supply, interlink of water source at Tobergal to Castlemahon water treatment plant including a new storage tank and upgraded pumping station, provision of aerators in the Newcastle West Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Rural Water Monitoring Committee

Four meetings of the committee took place during the year. This group plays an active role in monitoring the projects adopted under the rural water programme and help to assist private schemes meet the challenges presented by new national policy and legislation.



Granagh Group Water Scheme Reservoir

Provision of New Swimming Pool & Leisure Centre in Askeaton

Substantial progress was made on this project in 2006. On the 7th April, contracts were signed with the successful tenderer, Fitzgibbon (Builders) Ltd., Ennis, and construction work commenced shortly thereafter.

Total cost of the project is estimated to be €5.66m and the Department of Arts, Sport & Tourism is providing grant-aid of €4.1m, with the balance to be funded by the local community and Limerick County Council.

A special purpose company, Askeaton Pool & Leisure Ltd., was formed by Limerick County Council in partnership with Askeaton Swimming Club to construct and manage the new facility. When completed it will include a 25 metre, 5-lane swimming pool, a children's/learner pool, health suite to include sauna, steam room & spa pool, gym, multi-purpose rooms and changing facilities. It is expected that construction work will be completed in April/May 2007.

Burial Grounds

The focus again this year was in implementing the key recommendations of the Burial Ground Maintenance and Development Strategy which was adopted by the Council in 2003 specifically under three headings: (a) Capital Grants to Community Groups providing new facilities (b) Increased maintenance grants to voluntary groups and (c) identification of areas within old burial grounds for use/re-use as burial plots.

(a) Capital Grants were approved to assist voluntary committees in Mountcollins and Oola who wish to develop and manage new burial ground facilities for those parishes.

(b) The Council encourages the work of the local burial ground committees by means of a grant each year. Over 100 groups who look after 162 burial grounds received the grant in 2006. An awards scheme to highlight and reward groups who have shown particular commitment and initiative in following best

practice in their work was introduced for the first time this year. The Cathaoirleach presided at the prize giving ceremony in County Hall on 13th December. Guest speaker, Mary Sleaman, Co-Director of the Archaeological Survey Unit and author of 'Thatched Houses of Co. Cork', spoke about best practice in graveyards.

(c) Progress was made under this heading in Kilsannell Burial Ground.



Burial Ground Awards – 13th December 2006

The Winners of the Burial Ground Competition are as follows:

Newcastle West	Kilmallock	Rathkeale	Annacotty	Overall Winner
Modern Feenagh	Modern Knocklong	Modern Kildimo (New)	Modern Ballinure	Modern Ardagh (New)
Ancient Templeglantine	Ancient Ardkilmartin	Ancient Mountpleasant	Ancient Annagh	Ancient Kilkeedy

SERVICE INDICATORS

YEAR	Local Roads Surface Dressed (Sq. Mt.)	Regional Roads Surface Dressed (Sq. Mt.)	% Local Roads Surface Dressed	% Regional Roads Surface Dressed
2006	711,652m ²	178,777m ²	5.7%	6%
2005	679,693m ²	148,515m ²	6.5%	5%
2004	692,837m ²	126,387m ²	5.5%	4.3%

Housing



Jimmy Feane
Director of Housing



HOUSING

“To ensure that all people of County Limerick have adequate accommodation appropriate to their needs”

The year 2006 was the third year of the 5 year Housing Action Plan and the following are the works undertaken.

A total of 132 houses were under construction in the following towns and villages at 31st December, 2006.

Location	No. of Houses
Pallasgreen	21
Murroe	20
Kilmallock (Turnkey)	6
Carrickerry	10
Castleview, NCW	4
Templeglantine	8
Castleconnell	1
Ballingarry	4
Hospital	10
Newcastle West	20
Mountcollins	8
Kilfinane	19
Rural Cottage	1
Total	132

Another 16 houses were purchased at various locations around the County and demountable type dwellings were provided for 11 applicants.

A total of 96 houses were completed in the following locations and made available for letting:

Location	No. of Houses
Cappamore	16
Abbeyfeale	17
Rathkeale	20
Askeaton	10
Castleconnell	8
Croom	4
Knocklong	12
Ballyhahill (Turnkey)	5
Rural Cottages	4
Total	96



Abha Bhan, Ballyhahill

Applications for Housing Assistance:

Scheme	Applications	Approvals	Total Value of Approvals
Shared Ownership Scheme	34	7	€895,000
Affordable Housing (Part V)	108	23	Nil
House Purchase Annuity Loan	2	1	€132,000
Tenant Purchase Annuity Loan	13	3	€196,432
House Improvement Loan	2	0	Nil
Disabled Persons Grant	368	258	€1,513,562
Essential Repairs Grant	45	45	€363,045

Various stages of design works are ongoing on the provision of 93 houses in 9 locations for 2007. Total expenditure for the construction and purchase of houses for letting together with the provision of traveller accommodation came to approximately €18,300,000.

At the 31st December, 2006 the Council owned 1,860 dwellings which were occupied by its tenants.

A further 7 houses were acquired by way of the Shared Ownership Loan Scheme.

Voluntary Housing

This was another successful year in terms of the provision of accommodation by the Voluntary Housing Sector. 25 units were completed in the following centres:

Location	No. of Houses
Hospital	8
Kilmeedy	10
Broadford	2
Bruff	5
Total	25

Works in progress, including pre-construction was ongoing on the following schemes:

Location	No. of Houses
Athea	2
Kilmeedy	2
Newcastle West (Cluid)	42
Doon (Brothers of Charity)	12
Knocklong	3
Feenagh	14
Ballylanders (St. Joseph's Foundation)	11
Cappamore (Daughters of Charity)	8
Total	94

The Community & Voluntary Housing Forum met 4 times and discussed a range of matters relating to the Voluntary Housing Sector's activities.

A total of 30 tenancies were allocated by various Voluntary Housing Associations in the County to persons deemed by the Council to be in need of housing.

Other statistics relating to the Housing Section's activities in 2006 are:

- 845 housing applications were considered to be in need of Council housing.
- There were 167 Housing Allocations made comprising newly constructed houses and casual vacancies.
- Rental income for the year came to €3,874,580.65. The average rent paid by Council tenants is €41 per week.
- The total cost of maintenance of housing stock was €976,783.
- The average all-in cost including land costs, fees, etc. varied between €137,000 for a two-bedroomed one storey house and €151,000 for a 3 bedroomed unit.
- 4 No. privately owned houses were refurbished under the Improvement Works in Lieu of Rehousing Scheme.
- 1 No. Extension was completed to a Local Authority owned house.
- 23 No. Affordable Houses were provided in private developments at Caherdavin, Dooradoyle, Mungret, Castletroy and Newcastle West. These houses were provided in accordance with Part V of the Planning & Development Act, 2000.
- Works were completed on 282 rented Local Authority Houses under the installation of Central Heating/Smoke Alarm/Insulation Programme at a cost of over €2,274,223.



Voluntary Housing in Kilmeedy

Traveller Accommodation

Progress has continued in the delivery of accommodation for members of the Travelling Community.

In 2006, forty Traveller families were provided with permanent accommodation in standard housing and halting sites. Seven families took up occupancy of a new halting site in Castletroy and phase one of a 14 bay halting site was also completed.

Seventeen families were provided with housing in a new housing development in Rathkeale and families were also provided with housing in Abbeyfeale, Askeaton and Newcastle West. Social Work and other housing supports, including pre-tenancy training were provided in 2006. A community facility in Castletroy has been provided to facilitate the delivery of on site services and supports.

The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee met on three occasions in 2006.

The Council is also actively involved in an inter-agency plan for the delivery of all services to Travellers which should ensure that all services are provided in a co-ordinated manner. It is envisaged that this approach will lead to better outcomes, improve access and participation for Travellers.

Homeless Services

Two specialist staff, provide support and services to persons presenting as Homeless in County Limerick. In 2006, one hundred and thirteen families sought assistance from the Homeless Unit and ongoing support is provided for persons who are either homeless or potentially homeless. Research indicates that the main reasons for homelessness in the county are alcohol/addiction, family disputes, and mental health issues.

Financial assistance is provided to service providers who provide

accommodation for Homeless persons in the County. The Homeless Forum for County Limerick met on 4 occasions in 2006 and a new Homeless Strategy was adopted by the Council for the period 2007 to 2009.

The strategy outlines the needs of homeless persons and contains specific actions that will address these needs. It considers all aspects of homelessness, including accommodation and care needs. The provision of care and support services are essential if the needs of homeless persons are to be fully addressed and to achieve targets set out in the strategy.

Estate Management

The Council appointed a permanent Housing Services Officer in December 2005, with responsibility for Estate Management in local authority housing developments.

In 2006, a total of 9 Pre-Tenancy courses were delivered by the Housing Services Officer to over 100 families throughout the county, explaining their rights and responsibilities as tenants and the responsibilities of the Council as a landlord. All new tenants are visited after a settling in period. Tenants are encouraged to have a sense of pride in where they live and the Council supports any tenant in forming a Residents' Association.

The Housing Services Officer met with several groups of tenants and residents throughout 2006. Through the initiative of the residents in Oakley Lawn, Caherconlish and in co-operation with the Horticultural Department and local Area Office, Estate Management restored part of the green area in the estate and planted 100 trees. The residents also erected a new nameplate at the entrance to the estate with the help of funding from Estate Management and an official unveiling took place attended by all the local Councillors and Minister Willie O'Dea, T.D.

Works also commenced in Autumn 2006 in Sharwood and

Castlevue estates in Newcastle West, again in collaboration with the local area office. CCTV has been installed and new lights erected. Work has begun on extending the stone wall between the estates. A house has been provided by the Council in Sharwood as a resource centre and is managed by West Limerick Resources and the Council jointly. Other works will continue into 2007 but when finished will really transform the look of both developments. The house in Cappamore has been used during 2006 for another Community Education course and it is hoped that further courses will commence there in early 2007. Works were also undertaken in Glin, Ballylanders, Abbeyfeale and Rathkeale in collaboration with local residents, councillors and area office staff.



Estate Management at Oakley Lawn, Caherconlish



New Name Plate for Oakley Lawn, Caherconlish

SERVICE INDICATORS

H	Housing	2006	2005	2004
H.1	Housing vacancies			
	Total Number of dwellings in local authority stock	1860	1734	1698
	Overall % of dwellings that are let	97.10	98.10	97.90
	Overall % of dwellings that are empty	2.90	1.90	2.10
	% of empty dwelling subject to major refurbishment schemes	5.56	24.24	16.67
	% of empty dwellings unavailable for letting	96.3	32	33.33
	% of empty dwellings available for letting	3.70	68	66.67
H.2	Average time taken to relet dwellings available for letting	12 weeks	4.5 weeks	5 weeks
H.3	Number of repairs completed as a percentage of the number of valid repair requests received	85	85	86
H.4	Average time taken to inform applicants of Local authority's decision on applications for			
	- the shared ownership housing scheme	9days	14 days	14 days
	- housing loans schemes	5 days	14 days	11 days
	- local authority housing	76 days	34 days	-
	(Not available for 2004 due to delays in EMOS System)			
H.5	Traveller Accommodation			
	Total number of traveller families accommodated			
	As a percentage of the targets set in the local Traveller Accommodation Programme	166	78**	100*

**18 families have been accommodated out of a target of 23 in the Traveller Accommodation Programme.

*11 families have been offered permanent accommodation which represents 100% of the targets set out in the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2000-2004

Planning and Development



Tom Enright
Director of Planning & Development

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

“To adopt a positive approach to balanced economic development through the proper planning and sustainable development of the County”

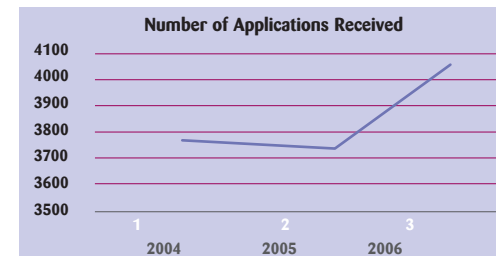
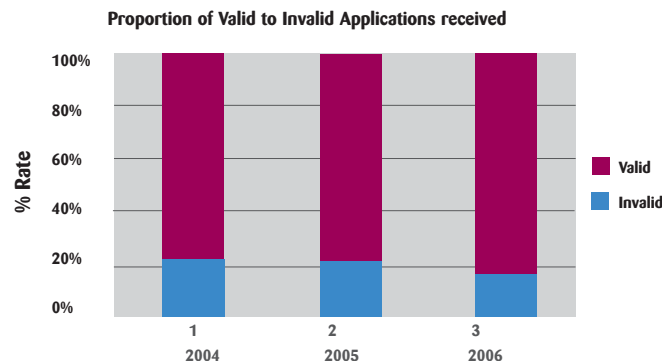
The functions of the Department are broadly divided among the following;

- Development Management
- Forward Planning
- Enforcement
- Development Contributions

Development Management

The Development Management section of the Department is primarily concerned with the receipt of planning applications. 2006 saw a further increase in applications activity with the number of application received for the period reaching 4062. This is the highest number of applications ever recorded in one year by Limerick County Council.

As is evidenced from the figures in the table below, the Planning Authority deal with a very high level of invalid applications. We constantly strive to reduce this number, as the submitting of applications that are invalid, results in a huge strain and drain on the resources of the Authority and leads to unnecessary delays in dealing with those applications that are valid.



Of the 2305 applications that were decided throughout the year, 2053 applications were granted, while 252 applications were refused. The percentage refusal rate for 2006 was 12.27%.

Site Notice Inspections

It should be noted that site notices inspections were carried out on all valid planning applications within the first five weeks following receipt in accordance with the planning and development regulations. A high number of applications were deemed invalid due to the fact that the site notice was not in place, was illegible or details such as date and development description were not identical to those submitted with the application. When making a planning application, please be advised that you are required to erect a site notice on site and maintain same for a period of five weeks, beginning on the date of receipt of the application by the Planning Authority.

Forward Planning

The Forward Planning section deals with the production and review of the County Development Plan and Local Area Plans. During the year, monitoring work continued in relation to the level of progress being achieved in securing the policy objectives set out in the County Development Plan. In addition new Local Area Plans were adopted for Bruff and Hospital and draft Local Area Plans were prepared for Kilfinane and Rathkeale. Local Area Plans have now been prepared for 18 areas, while development boundaries have been set out for the remainder of the 74 defined settlements listed in the county development plan.

Architectural Conservation

By the end of 2006 there were 1,469 entries in the Record of Protected Structures maintained by this planning authority. During the course of the year, additional Architectural Conservation Areas were identified for the towns of Bruff and Hospital during the preparation of Local Area Plans.

There were 88 applications for assistance under the provisions of the Conservation Grant Scheme for Protected Structures. 60 Certificates of Provisional Approval were issued and, by the end of the year, 42 payments, with a combined value of almost €450,000, had been made. This exceeded the previous year's disbursement by over €70,000. Sums awarded ranged from €1,750 to €25,000.



Rathkeale's former railway station was dismantled and moved to facilitate the construction of the by-pass in the 1980's. It now houses the Palatine Heritage Centre and was identified during the course of the year as being of such historical and cultural significance to warrant processing for entry to the Record of Protected Structures.



A New housing development in Caherconlish successfully blends with the village's heritage through references to the Georgian style of architecture on the main facades of the houses.



Housing Development in Adare

Heritage- Village Design Statements

The primary heritage related planning initiative in 2006 was the commencement of Village Design Statements, for Murroe and Athea. These are documents which are characterised by a high level of public consultation in order to ascertain how the local community would like their villages to develop. The formation of the documents is very closely guided by local wishes and in particular the protection of the heritage elements of the villages that are regarded as locally important. The features in terms of heritage could be as diverse as buildings, open spaces, streetscapes or habitats. Both documents will be completed early in 2007.

Enforcement

During the year the level of activity in the Enforcement Section in respect of unauthorised developments and developments not carried out in compliance with planning permission increased significantly. In the course of the year 412 cases came to the Council's attention. Following investigation of these complaints 148 Warning Letters and 123 Enforcement Notices were issued. The Council also initiated legal proceedings for non-compliance with enforcement notices, which resulted in 32 successful prosecutions during the year.

Small Towns and Villages Initiative

The small towns and villages water services initiative for adopting a partnership approach to proposals for small-scale water and sewage treatment works in towns and villages lacking such facilities continued to make significant progress. Over the past two years, two new sewage treatment works were constructed in Caherconlish and Kilfinane, with a further twelve projects at an advanced planning stage and over twenty further expressions of interest. In order to complement this initiative, a new serviced sites policy was adopted by the Council in December 2006, to promote high quality, low density residential developments in towns and villages.

Customer Service Initiatives

Newsletter

Publication of the Planning & Development Newsletter on a quarterly basis. The Newsletter provides information in relation to items of interest in relation to the planning process both in County Limerick and at a national level. Copies are available on our website at www.lcc.ie/planning

Counter Service

Planning Staff continued to provide the 'Over the Counter' validation service in a bid to reduce the number of invalid application received by the Authority. An electronic information screen was installed at the counter to inform members of the public visiting the office of planning policy and procedures.

Planning Guide

A new and updated planning guide was published in response to a demand for such information and, as a result of recent changes in policy and legislation. The guide details the various stages in the planning process and is an absolute must for anyone applying for planning permission. The application form was updated during the period in order to make the form more user-friendly. It is envisaged by the Department that a country-wide application form will be issued in 2007.

Website

As usual the Planning Website was very busy with a huge number of hits during the year. The website provides a wide variety of useful information in relation to the planning process, including the facility to download forms and guidance notes etc.

Agents Seminar

In July 2006 a seminar for planning agents was held. There was a large turnout and the content of the seminar reflected issues of concern and importance for all parties in the planning process.

Housing Strategy

A new Housing Strategy for the period 2005-2011 was adopted by the Council in October 2006. The strategy estimates that a total of 9060 additional housing units are required to be provided up to 2011. Given that a total of 1,038 hectares of land has been zoned for residential development in the towns and villages covered by local area plans and a further 566 hectares of land is available within the other towns and villages with development boundaries, it is considered that there is an adequate supply of land zoned to meet anticipated needs. The Housing Strategy confirms the requirement established in the previous Housing Strategy 2001-2006 that 20% of eligible sites, which are zoned for residential development, be set aside for the development of social and affordable housing units.

Development Contributions

Section 48 of the Planning & Development Acts 2000 provides that when granting planning permission a local authority may, as a condition of that planning permission, require the payment of a contribution in respect of public infrastructure and facilities benefiting development in the area of the Planning Authority. The Development Contribution Scheme for Limerick County Council was adopted on 19th December 2003.

During 2006 over €15m was approved for spending on a variety of projects throughout the county. Some of the projects will take a number of years to complete and so may require additional funding in the coming years.

In the allocation of funding the approved strategy for expenditure is generally on the basis of 80% to Transportation and Water Services and 20% to Community Enterprise Projects.

Development Contribution Scheme 2003:

Monies received in 2006 in accordance with Development Contribution Scheme 2003	€12.4m
Actual Monies Outstanding in 2006 in accordance with Development Contributions Scheme 2003	€4.9m

Development Fund Allocations 2003 Scheme:

Category	MATCHING FUNDING		Total Allocation
	Allocated 2005 €m	Allocated 2006 €m	
Transportation	1.15	2.13	3.28
Playgrounds	0.060	0.180	0.240
Water Services	0.276	1.01	1.286
Small Towns & Villages Initiatives	0.5	0.5	1.00
Enterprise Support	0.06	0.320	0.380
Broadband	0.01	0.310	0.320
Tourism Projects	0.06	0.200	0.260
Development Support			
Transportation Supports	1.5	1.63	3.13
Sewerage Treatment Plant Upgrades	0.08	0.9	0.980
Water Supply Upgrades	0.159	0.55	.709
Schools Flashing Lights	-	0.93	0.93
Other Supports			
Community Sports & Cultural Grants	0.50	0.60	1.100
Irish Chamber Orchestra		0.025	0.025
Public Parks	0.150	0.68	0.83
Taking in Charge of Estates	0.3	0.50	0.80
Community Radio	0.03	0.03	0.060
TOTAL	€4.835	€10.495	€15.333

As can be seen from the table a total of €12.4m was collected in 2006 under the Development Contribution Scheme 2003. A sum of €4.9m is currently outstanding. It is important to note that while contributions are levied at the time that the decision to grant planning permission is made, the levy does not fall due for payment until the development is about to commence. As there may be a lead in of a number of years in some cases, payment of the contribution will not be made until around the time the development is commenced. In cases where the contribution is not paid enforcement action will be taken for the recovery of the monies due.

The above funding is a significant level funding which is as a result of an ever increasing level of activity in the county over the last number of years. It is our ultimate aim that the funds raised through this scheme are re-invested in the county to provide very necessary public infrastructure and to enhance the quality of life for those living and working in county Limerick.

SERVICE INDICATORS P: Planning and Building Control

P1: Planning Applications - Decision Making

INDIVIDUAL HOUSES

	2004	2005	2006
No. of applications decided	1480	1047	755
No. decided within 8 weeks	612	367	212
No. of decisions which required the submission of further information.	728	598	502
No. of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under Section 34(9).	113	70	40
Average length of time taken (in days) to decide a case where further information was sought	78.7	80.16	80.92
% of grants	79.59	77.36	79.07
% of refusals	20.41	22.64	20.93
% of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	68.97	83.78	84.21
% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	31.03	16.22	15.79

NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

No. of applications decided	108	140	123
No. decided within 8 weeks	32	34	31
No. of decisions which required the submission of further information.	69	103	89
No. of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under Section 34(9).	7	5	6
Average length of time taken (in days) to decide a case where further information was sought	76.78	81.55	81.17
% of grants	82.41	78.57	82.11
% of refusals	17.59	21.43	17.89
% of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	37.5	73.33	66.67
% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	62.5	26.67	33.33

OTHER: NOT REQUIRING EIA

	2004	2005	2006
No. of applications decided	839	1137	1424
No. decided within 8 weeks	556	768	934
No. of decisions which required the submission of further information.	268	325	469
No. of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under Section 34(9).	15	22	11
Average length of time taken (in days) to decide a case where further information was sought	76.21	81.91	79.12
% of grants	95.35	94.72	95.08
% of refusals	4.65	5.28	4.92
% of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	66.67	73.33	76
% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	33.33	26.67	24

SERVICE INDICATORS:

OTHER: REQUIRING EIA

	2004	2005	2006
No. of applications decided	4	7	3
No. decided within 8 weeks	1	1	2
No. of decisions which required the submission of further information.	3	6	1
No. of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under Section 34(9).	0	0	0
Average length of time taken (in days) to decide a case where further information was sought	90.33	104.67	103
% of grants	100	100	33.33
% of refusals	0	0	66.67
% of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	0	0	100
% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	0	0	0

P2 PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

Total number of cases subject to complaints that are investigated	349	340	412
Total number of cases subject to complaints that are dismissed	80	88	136
Total number of cases subject to complaints that were resolved through negotiations		237	97
Number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters	221	212	148
Number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices	95	128	123
Number of prosecutions	21	15	30

P3 PUBLIC OPENING HOURS

Average number of opening hours per week	33.33	33.33	33.33
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P4 CONSULTATIONS

Number of pre-planning consultation meetings held	-	520	912
Average length of time (in days) from request for consultation with local authority planner to actual formal meeting for pre-planning consultation.	19	19	43

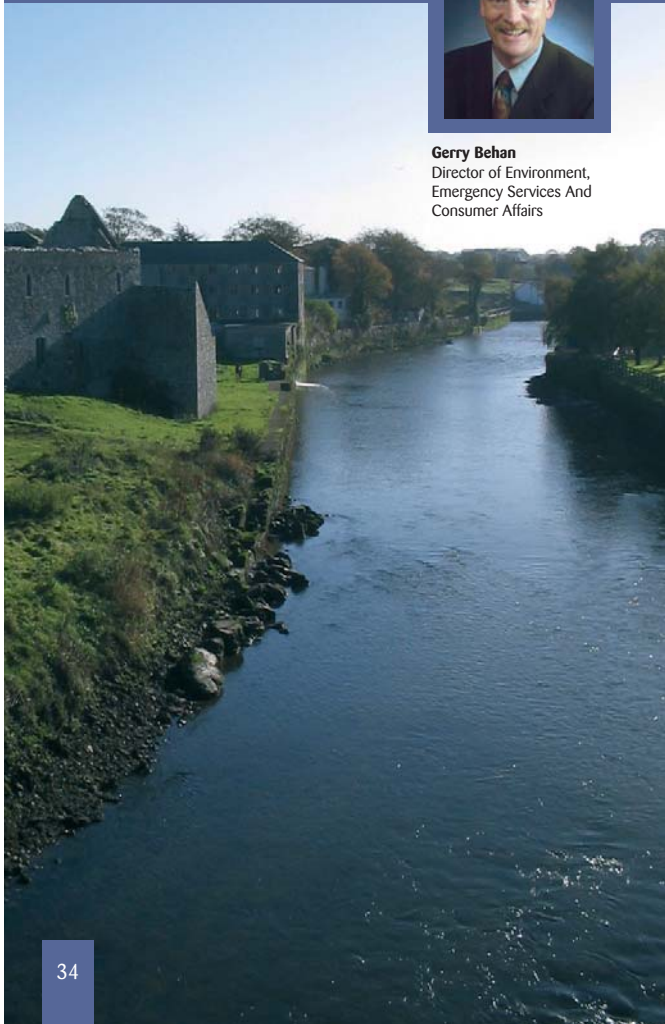
P5 BUILDINGS INSPECTED AS A PERCENTAGE OF NEW BUILDINGS NOTIFIED TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

41.32	22.55	15.25
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Environment, Emergency Services and Consumer Affairs



Gerry Behan
Director of Environment,
Emergency Services And
Consumer Affairs



ENVIRONMENT

“To protect, conserve and enhance the natural and built environment of County Limerick”

This Directorate is responsible for a diverse range of functions and services. The principal divisions within the Section are as follows:

- Pollution Control and Water Quality Management.
- Litter Management.
- Waste Management.
- Derelict Sites.
- Energy Agency and Conservation.
- Fire and Emergency Services.
- Building Control.
- Veterinary Services.
- Civil Defence.
- Water Safety.
- Corporate Building Programme.

POLLUTION CONTROL & WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

The Pollution Control Division is responsible for the implementation of Local Government Environmental Legislation in the following areas: air, water, noise and nuisance. It also has a general water quality monitoring and management role. Specific activities undertaken by the section include the investigation of water pollution incidents, licensing of discharges to waters and sewers, licensing of significant emissions to air, monitoring of drinking water, urban waste water plants, rivers and lakes.

In addition, the Pollution Control Section works closely with the

Planning Section in the implementation of the Housing Site Suitability Assessment procedures, introduced in June 2005, and in commenting on the environmental aspects of planning applications generally.

Water Pollution

The Phosphorous Regulations, 1998

Water pollution is a major concern in County Limerick. Therefore much of the work of the pollution control section is devoted to this matter. Only 49% of rivers in County Limerick are classed as unpolluted, compared to a national figure of 62%. In addition, the Rivers Maigue and Deel, which drain the majority of the County are the most polluted rivers in the Country, in terms of Phosphorous loading. Under the Phosphorous Regulations 1998, the Council is obliged to achieve a significant improvement in river water quality by 2007. To this end, the Council has established a team consisting of an Agricultural Scientist and two Field Inspectors with administrative and technical support to undertake a comprehensive programme of farm inspections, discharge licensing and general pollution investigations.

Since the team was established in November 2002, pollution surveys have been completed in the River Deel catchment. In total, over 2,500 farm visits have been carried out along with inspections of septic tanks, industrial and commercial premises and sewage treatment plants. The team works in close co-operation with individuals and community groups with a view to addressing the problems identified.

The European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations, 2006.

Also known as the Nitrates Regulations, this legislation specifies the manner in which certain farming activities are to be carried out in order to minimise the risk of water pollution. These regulations are far more prescriptive than previous water pollution legislation and the primary responsibility for their enforcement rests with local authorities.

Since the introduction of the Nitrates Regulations in 2006, the council's farm survey procedures have been amended to ensure that compliance with this legislation is assessed during farm visits.

The Water Pollution Acts 1977 & 1990

Enforcement of the Water Pollution Acts is an important element in ensuring good water quality. The Environment Section investigated approximately 100 complaints relating to water issues, which resulted in 7 successful prosecutions under the Water Pollution Act 1977 & 1990.

Air Pollution

In 2006, the Environment Section received 131 complaints about air pollution. The majority of these related to burning of waste and were dealt with under the Waste Management Act 1996.

Public Health

The Environment Section is responsible for public health issues covered by the Public Health Ireland Act 1878. In 2006, 50 complaints relating to public health were received. These mainly related to problems such as overflowing septic tanks, rat infestations and dead animals.

Noise

36 noise complaints were received during the year. While the Council does have the power to serve an abatement notice under the EPA Act 1993, it was not necessary to use this power in relation to these complaints as, in most cases, the party responsible for the noise took the necessary measures to reduce

the problem once it was brought to their attention. The most appropriate course of action was for the affected party to take an action to the district court under the EPA Noise Regulations, 1994.

Housing Site Suitability Assessments

Since June 2005, all site assessments for one off housing planning applications must be carried out in accordance with "Treatment Systems for Single Houses" (EPA 2000). A panel of approved assessors was set up at the time and only Site Characterisation Reports (SCR's) prepared by approved assessors are accepted for planning purposes.

The pollution control section reviews SCR's carried out by approved assessors and makes recommendations to the Planning Section. The section also maintains a database of reports and ensures that all test results are mapped on the Council's GIS system. In addition, the Pollution Control Staff monitor the system for any irregularities in the carrying out of reports. Since the introduction of the system 1232 reports have been reviewed.

Environment Laboratory

The Environment Laboratory is responsible for the following areas of work:

1. Management Plan for Drinking Water Quality.

The laboratory monitors drinking water to ensure that the quality is legally compliant and fit for consumption by our customers and for group water scheme users. The laboratory also provides technical assistance to the Council's Water Treatment Plant Operators, group water schemes and members of the public as requested. In 2006, a total of 591 scheduled samples were taken.

216 additional samples were taken as part of water supply quality incident investigation and resolutions.

2. Management Plan for Urban Waste Water Treatment Plants.

This management plan ensures Limerick County Council's compliance with the requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 (Urban Waste Water Treatment) Regulations 1994 S.I. 419. During the year 541 samples were taken, analysed and assessed from 44 discharge points.

3. Management Plan for Surface Waters for Abstractions.

The management plan includes the legal classification of drinking water treatment plants with surface water sources in the County and the legal quality standards that the raw water for these plants should meet. The plan sets out sampling frequencies and analysis required. This plan was complied with in 2006.

4. Management Plan for Licensed Activities

Limerick County Council licenses both discharges to waters and sewers in accordance with the Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts 1977 & 1990 and the associated Regulations. The laboratory is involved in the following way:

4.1 Licence Review Programme

A number of existing licences were reviewed in 2006. This was necessitated due to changing circumstances in the activities and to bring licences up to the standards of the day.

4.2 Industry sampling programme

66 industry samples were taken analysed and assessed for compliance with the individual licences.

4.3 Licensing Audit Programme

The industry audit programme was only partially completed due to staff shortages. Audits were prioritised on a risk assessment basis. In addition 1546 industry self-monitoring returns were assessed for compliance, representing a threefold increase in this work over 2005.

5. Monitoring programme for river catchments and lakes

Fifteen river catchments and two lakes were monitored in 2006 to assess compliance with the relevant regulations. In total, 696 samples were taken at monitoring stations throughout the County during the year.

Shannon River Basin District (RBD) Management Project

Limerick County Council is the Contracting Authority for the Shannon RBD Management Project, which has been established with National Development Plan funding to assist the local authorities in the RBD to meet the requirements of new European and Irish legislation relating to water management. Ireland has been divided into eight river basin districts covering the whole of the island of Ireland, of which the Shannon (with a total area of 18,000 km²) is the largest - covering the natural drainage area of the River Shannon and the associated coastal areas of Clare, Limerick and Kerry. It extends into the functional area of eighteen local authorities, with Limerick County Council identified in the Irish legislation as the Co-ordinating Local Authority for the Shannon RBD.

The Project received approval from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in 2006 for additional funding of €2.25 million to extend the Project to December 2008, culminating with the production of the draft River Basin Management Plan for the district in 2008. The Timetable and Work Programme for the production of the River Basin Management Plan for the Shannon RBD was published in June 2006 and is available on the Project website at www.shannonrbd.com or by contacting the Environment section of Limerick County Council. Also during 2006, the monitoring programme for the Shannon RBD was prepared as required by the legislation.

LITTER MANAGEMENT

The Council continued to tackle the problems of illegal dumping, fly-tipping, unauthorised signage, etc, during 2006 through the rigorous enforcement of the Litter Pollution/Waste Management Acts.

In this regard, the three Environmental Control Officers, along with other Council staff, issued a total of 362 on-the-spot fines.

Furthermore, legal proceedings were initiated in 38 cases under the above legislation resulting in 12 convictions and fines/costs ranging from €250 to €1,500 were imposed by the Court Service. In one case, a warrant was issued for a custodial sentence. The increased use of CCTV technology has proved to be a valuable enforcement tool in detecting offenders. The Council's two clean-up crews worked in tandem with the Environmental Control Officers and arranged for the removal/proper disposal of waste deposits, the erection of 'No Dumping' signs in areas prone to littering and the maintenance of the Council's bring bank network.

National Spring Clean 2006 was kick-started by the Council's participation in a clean-up organised by Askeaton Community Council. National Spring Clean is an annual event organised by An Taisce in conjunction with local authorities. Participation levels by groups in County Limerick have increased markedly since its inception in 1998. The Environment Section distributed bags, gloves, and litter pickers to residents' associations, schools, etc and arranged for the removal/disposal of all waste afterwards. In 2006, approximately 3340 tonnes of litter was collected nationally during the campaign, 35% of which was recycled.

The Environment Section received a grant of €16,000 from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government under the Anti-Litter Awareness Grants Scheme. These monies are being used to produce 'litter control kits' for use by residents' associations, voluntary groups, schools, etc during clean-up campaigns. These packs contain litter pickers, gloves, bags and tabards. Grant monies were also allocated to the ongoing 'Pooper Scooper' initiative which aims to raise awareness among the public/dog owners regarding the public health dangers posed by dog dirt.

The National Litter Pollution Monitoring System aims to assess the extent and composition of litter pollution throughout the County. In this regard, the Council's Environmental Control Officers carried out 16 Litter Quantification surveys and 78 Litter Pollution Surveys during the year. The surveys involve the

identification of the potential litter generators (e.g. fast food outlets, bank ATM facilities, shopping centres etc) and the litter composition at different areas including town centres, rural/urban areas. The results of the surveys are an important tool in identifying the principal sources/causes of litter, monitoring improvements in litter levels throughout the county and evaluating the impact of anti-litter initiatives.



Environmental Awareness

Environmental Awareness Activities

- A spring / summer edition of the "Managing Waste Better" newsletter was produced to highlight initiatives / recent developments in relation to recycling, composting and anti-litter programmes.
- A series of adverts on the new Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive were produced to assist consumers with knowing their rights in this area.
- 48 primary / secondary schools were visited by the Environmental Awareness Officer.
- A further eight primary schools received the Green Flag Award.
- An 'Environmental Awareness' day was held in April during 'Real Nappy Week', the purpose of which was to promote waste minimisation in the home.
- Talks were delivered to 10 community interest groups.
- The Environmental Awareness Officer took part in the UL/SNS Family Environment Event.
- Over 1000 composting cones were sold at a subsidised rate to householders. The cones were sold through the Council's Area Offices and the Household Waste Recycling Centres.
- Two composting workshops were held in the city environs during April.
- Significant promotion of the existing recycling centres was carried out, a further campaign about the opening of the Mungret Civic Amenity Centre was held during National Recycling Week, which was the first week of October.
- Seasonal recycling arrangements for Easter egg packaging together with an extensive 'Green Christmas Campaign' were again organised in conjunction with householders and county schools.
- A newly designed awareness campaign to 'green' Christmas was carried out using a specially designed Christmas card - 40,000 were distributed countywide.
- A total of 10 schools participated in an environmental challenge organised jointly by Oxfam and Limerick County Council.
- All primary schools were offered free schoolbook recycling.
- Twelve county schools participated in energy awareness

workshops organised by Sustainable Energy Ireland.

- A special screening of 'An Inconvenient Truth' was held for staff & councillors to assist with raising awareness about global warming.
- 20 schools were invited to drama presentations to raise awareness about the environment - the children were entertained by Magician Marvin & Skylight Productions
- A total of 29 Recycling Centres in the county have been adopted.
- Nine groups were awarded funds totalling €15,084.00 from the joint LCC/DoEHLG Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund.
- Approximately 400 entries were received for the Council's 'Better Environment Awards' competition - over 30 schools participated.
- The Council actively supported the national 'Race against Waste' Campaign and hosted a '360 Degree' Race Against Waste Event in February for Youth Leaders & teachers, an Action at Work event was held in March for all members of the Community Development Board.
- A submission to participate in the EPA's pilot Local Authority Prevention Demonstration Programme was successful and the Environmental Awareness Officer commenced working on a paper prevention programme in partnership with the University of Limerick, which will run for 30 months.
- A joint City & County Green Schools seminar was held in November for teachers in all county schools.



Primary School children attending Sustainable Energy Ireland Workshops at Mungret G.A.A. Clubhouse



Raising the Green Flag at Bilboa National School.

Waste Management Regional Waste Management Office

As lead authority for the implementation of the Limerick/Clare/Kerry Regional Waste Management Plan, the Council administers the Regional Waste Management Office in Mallow Street, Limerick.. The region published The Replacement Waste Management Plan 2006-2011 in June 2006. The key strategy component of the Replacement Waste Management Plan for the Limerick/Clare/Kerry Region is waste prevention and with this in mind the Regional Waste Management Office was successful in applying for grant aid to the EPA under the Local Authority Prevention Demonstration Project (LAPD) and four thirty month prevention projects have commenced. The region has joined forces with four outside organisations to demonstrate prevention and they are John Sisk & Sons Ltd, Western Region Limerick, University of Limerick, Skycourt Shopping Centre, Shannon and Farranfore Airport, Co. Kerry. Education and awareness campaigns required to meet the targets of the Replacement Waste Management Plan are co-ordinated by this office.

This office also processes Waste Collection Permit applications. To date, the office has received over 400 Waste Collection Permit applications, of which 375 have been granted. The office processed 346 Annual Environmental Reports for Waste Movements in 2006. The office also co-ordinates concerted waste enforcement in the region in conjunction with the EPA's Enforcement Network and organised regional checkpoints in June 2006. The office produced a waste prevention guide for industry and business with numerous case studies from within the region and this was launched at the office's annual seminar in May 2006. The office has been involved at steering group level on the UL lead project on 'Eco industrial networking'. The office has also supported Supply Network Shannon's pallet exchange scheme.

Enforcement

The Environment Section received 2,428 pollution complaints, of which 1,895 related to Waste and Litter, 63% of these relating to litter and 37% to waste. Following investigation, most of these complaints were resolved without recourse to the issuing of warning letters, formal notices or legal proceedings. Statutory notices were issued and / or prosecutions were initiated in respect of the remainder.

The following is a breakdown of the of warning letters and notices issued under the Waste Management Acts 1996 - 2005 (WMA's) and Litter Pollution Act 1997 (LPA).

- No. of Warning Letters issued = 336.
- No. of Spot Fines issued under the LPA = 362.
- No. of Section 18 Notices issued under the WMAs = 28.
- No. of Section 55 Notices issued under the WMA's = 44.

Of the files referred for legal action Limerick County Council successfully obtained 3 convictions for offences under the LPA and 10 convictions under the WMA's for various offences.

Permitting / Regulation

The Council issued a total of 14 Waste Permits in respect of new facilities in 2006, bringing the total number of permitted facilities in the county to 43 with a further 22 sites expiring. A further 17 applications were under assessment at the end of the year. The Council audited 19 Waste Permitted Facilities during the year. In addition, 25 Waste Collectors were audited during the year to ensure compliance with their Waste Collection Permit.

Packaging Regulations

The Council continues to inspect major producers of packaging waste in order to assess compliance with the Packaging Regulations. Four concerns have opted for Self-Registration with the Council with a further concern applying for Self-registration. The remaining producers are members of REPAK.

Recycling Facilities

At present, there are 50 bring bank facilities around the county offering collections for glass, steel and aluminium cans. Of these sites twelve of these facilities offer textile recycling, five offer paper recycling and ten offer plastic recycling facilities also. In addition to the two existing Recycling Centres located in Kilmallock and Newcastle West, a new facility was opened in October 2006, in Mungret, located on the N69. In conjunction with the opening of the new Recycling Centre, a purpose built facility for the acceptance of green waste was opened in Mungret. This facility will enable the manufacture of compost from green waste material accepted at all the Recycling Centres.

Derelict Sites

The provisions of the Derelict Sites Act 1990 continued to be enforced during 2006. Significant progress has been made in Croom and Kilfinane in particular.

The Derelict Sites Register was maintained and continually updated and a number of sites were added to it and removed from it.



Improvement to streetscape at Bridge Street, Croom following application of the Derelict Sites Act 1990 to three adjacent sites

The following table shows the number of entries and removals made in the register since 2001:

YEAR	ENTRIES	REMOVALS	ON REGISTER AT YR. END
2002		3	23
2003		1	22
2004	17	13	26
2005	21	3	44
2006	14	10	48

Four notices under Section 11 of the Act were served in 2006, directing the completion of specified remedial works by owners or occupiers.

No derelict site was compulsorily acquired during 2006, notices of intention to compulsorily acquire sites were served in three cases. Three convictions were secured in the District Court for failure to comply with notices under Section 11 of the Act. One conviction was upheld in full following an appeal to the Circuit Court and two further appeals are pending.

One appeal against a determination of valuation of urban land was heard by the Valuation Tribunal, leading to a reduction in valuation from €90,000 to €75,000 in respect of the particular site.

An Bord Pleanála granted consent to the compulsory acquisition of a derelict site at Glengort Schoolhouse by the Council, following one objection.

The following table shows the general locations in which sites appeared on the Register at the close of 2006:

Abbeyfeale	1
Ballingarry	3
Ballyhahill	1
Ballylanders	1
Bruff	2
Caherconlish	3
Caherdavin	2
Cappamore	1
Castleconnell	1
Croom	3
Glin	1
Kilfinane	13
Moyross	1
Mungret	1
Newcastle West	4
Raheen	1
Rathkeale	7
Templeglantine	1
Tournafulla	1
Grand Total	48

The Derelict Sites Register is a statutory register established under Section 8 of the Derelict Sites Act, 1990. It is available for public inspection in the Environment Directorate, during normal business hours.

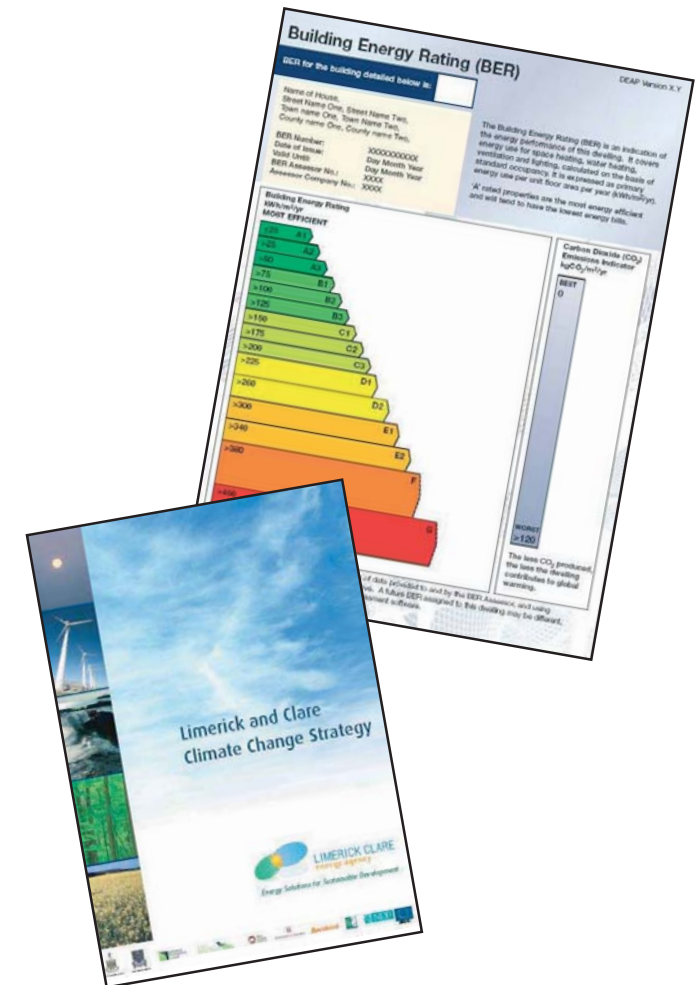
Energy Agency and Conservation

The mission statement for the agency is:

‘The Limerick Clare Energy Agency aims to provide energy solutions for sustainable development in the region. The agency will provide energy services to all economic sectors and the general public, promoting and facilitating efficiency & sustainability in the production and consumption of energy.’

The priorities for the Agency are:

- Energy & Emissions Balance for Limerick & Clare
- Climate Change Strategy for Limerick & Clare
- Energy efficiency benchmarking of local authority facilities
- Energy auditing of community facilities
- Energy efficiency & renewable energy training for community groups
- Implement the Energy Performance Buildings Directive
- Promote an Indigenous energy supply
- Promote increased use and understanding of renewable energy technologies
- Provide energy management services
- Establish a Fuel Poverty Programme for Limerick & Clare
- Promote an energy efficient transport strategy for Limerick & Clare.



EMERGENCY SERVICES

Limerick County Fire Department aims to maintain and improve the quality of response to fire and emergency incidents, to ensure the fire safety of planned and existing buildings in accordance with the relevant legislation and Codes of Practice and to promote public awareness of Fire Safety. The Department maintained its ISO9001 2000 Quality Award in 2006 following external surveillance audits.

A Five-year Business Plan 2006 - 2010 was completed in 2006 following consultation with fire service staff and customers and was approved by the Council. The Business Plan, in conjunction with the Corporate Plan for Limerick County Council, sets out the Fire Authority's objectives for the next five years to meet the needs of customers, staff and statutory obligations and represents a structured approach to planning the Authority's activities.

Operations

The County's operational response is provided by 6 Fire Stations located at Abbeyfeale, Cappamore, Foynes, Kilmallock, Newcastle West and Rathkeale. Limerick City Fire Service is retained to provide fire cover in the City Environs. These brigades responded to 1289 incidents in County Limerick during the year.

Funding of €917,000 was secured in 2006 for two new specialist fire appliances. Once constructed a new emergency rescue tender will be based at Newcastle West Fire Station. This vehicle which will be provided with a hydraulic crane which will greatly enhance the Fire Service's ability to deal with rescues and road traffic accidents. A new 27m aerial Hydraulic platform will be located at Rathkeale Fire Station. The Service also took delivery of 1 new Water Tanker and 2 second-hand Fire Tenders. These vehicles raised the age profile of the fleet and allowed older vehicles to be retired. The redeveloped Fire Station at Abbeyfeale was formally opened in April 2006 by the Leas Chathaoirleach of Limerick County Council, Councillor Rose Brennan.

Fire Prevention

The Fire Prevention Department processed a total of 223 Fire Safety Certificate applications during the year. An assessment was made of 599 referrals from the Planning Department in line with the Fire Services and Planning Acts in respect of new developments. 313 inspections were carried out under the Fire Service Existing Building Inspection Programme

Community Fire Safety

Fire officers visited a total of 49 schools in 2006 representing 40% of all primary schools in County Limerick to educate children about home fire safety. All children were provided with home fire safety leaflets and encouraged to test their smoke alarm and prepare a fire plan for their homes as part of a homework assignment. The Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government launched the "Safety Team - Primary Schools Project" in November 2006, developed as part of the National Fire Services Change Programme. A total of eight fire service personnel attended training provided by The Fire Services Council in September 2006 to deliver this programme. The programme, which is now being rolled out in County Limerick, is aimed at third class children and will be delivered to all primary schools throughout the County.

4 public talks to community groups were delivered during the year. 10 pre-tenancy talks on fire safety in the home were given to new tenants of Local Authority Housing.

Fire Safety week

Fire Safety in the home was promoted during Fire Safety Week 2006 through radio interviews, home fire safety advertisements, public information stands in Shopping Centres and supermarkets throughout the County and visits to Fire Stations by local schools. The week culminated in an Open Day in Rathkeale Fire Station which was visited by over 300 people. The public had an opportunity to see the fire station and the equipment in use by the Fire Service. The activities included a chip-pan fire demonstration by fire fighters. A public information stand on home fire safety was also provided. A fire safety art competition

was also held in local schools in the Rathkeale area. Pupils from 20 schools entered the competition. In all there were 12 prize-winners and Fire service personnel awarded the prizes and certificates to pupils in December 2006. Also information on fire safety in retail outlets was distributed to 350 retail premises.



Open Day in Rathkeale Fire Station during Fire Safety Week

Training and Development

The Fire Service's commitment to training was reflected in 140 fire-fighters and officers attending 31 training courses. These courses ranged in duration from 1 day to 2 weeks and were held both at home and abroad.

All fire service staff contributed to the development of a Training and Development Plan for all staff in the department during 2006. The Plan, which will identify the training needs of all staff grades in the department, will be completed in 2007 and an implementation programme developed.



Fire Safety Week



Assistant Chief Fire Office Paul McMahon, Firefighter Michael Leonard and Station Officer, John Mulready, with pupils from Scoil Chaitríona, Cappamore, during a visit to the school by Limerick County Fire & Rescue Service promoting Home Fire Safety

BUILDING CONTROL

The Building Control system applies to the design and construction of new buildings, extensions and material alterations to and certain changes of use of existing buildings.

The purpose of this section is to promote quality in building standards through a combination of inspections, advice, & enforcement of the appropriate legislation. Powers of enforcement relate to a wide range of matters including structural stability, fire safety, materials, workmanship heating/insulation, ventilation and access for the disabled

The Building Control Act 1990

Building Control Regulations 1997

A Commencement Notice must be submitted to the Building Control Section prior to the commencement of work on any development. The information in the notice forms the basis of site inspections of the work in progress. Where issues arise in relation to construction, efforts are first made to resolve the matter through discussion and co-operation. However, in some instances, enforcement measures are necessary.

Building Control Bill 2005

This Bill amends and extends the Building Control Act 1990. Among these are proposals to strengthen the enforcement powers of Local Building Control Authorities in relation to the following:

- The introduction of revised procedures for the issue of Fire Safety Certificates.
- The introduction of a Disability Access Certificate (DAC)
- Widens the right of Building Control Authorities to seek injunctions from the High Court.
- Options for authorities to bring summary prosecution for all building code offences in the District Court.

The section received approximately 1060 Commencement Notices and relating to approximately 2400 buildings. A total of 53 Warning Letters were issued, 9 Enforcement Notices and 15 prosecutions were initiated during this period.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Council is required by statute to provide for the health and safety of its staff and persons affected by County Council activities. In this regard a number of services are co-ordinated by the Health and Safety Section-

Review and dissemination of Safety Statements and procedures to comply with Regulations:

A complete review of Safety Statements and Regulatory compliance documentation was undertaken in 2006 to take into account the new 2005 Act and 2006 Construction Regulations. These reviews will be adopted and distributed in early 2007.

Annual Inspections:

County Council operations, in particular outdoor activities, are inspected and reports prepared accordingly. This is a continuous process which aims to monitor progress and compliance. A comprehensive review of confined spaces and confined space entry procedures was carried out in 2006.

Safety Monitoring Committee and Safety Consultative Committee.:

Both these committees are set up to ensure inclusion, feedback and thorough understanding of safety within the organisation for management and staff. Meetings are held regularly at which briefings, recommendations and decisions are made with regard to safety matters.

Accident / Incident Reporting:

The accidents/incidents are reported though the relevant areas concerned. This is co-ordinated through the Health and Safety Section to ensure statutory reporting is carried out and accidents are properly investigated. It is through the analysis of why an accident occurred that procedures can be put in place to avoid a reoccurrence in the future.

Health and Safety Training carried out in 2006

- Induction Training for new personnel.
- Fas Safe Pass Training and CSCS Training,
- Fire Emergency Training and evacuation exercises,
- Safety Booklet and Seminars associated with same.
- Signing/Lighting/Guarding at Roadworks,
- Personal Protective Equipment courses,
- Office Safety computer generated courses,
- Small Tools and Equipment Training,
- Safety for Inspectors, planning, housing etc.
- Other relevant training.

VETERINARY SERVICES

One of the main responsibilities of the Veterinary Department is the provision of a food safety regulatory service under contract to, and as an agency of, the Food Safety Authority of Ireland. In this regard, abattoirs and meat manufacturing/ processing establishments in the county, along with associated meat transport vehicles, are supervised and inspected by the Council's team of Veterinary Inspectors to ensure compliance with food safety legislation. The meat premises supervised produce a wide variety of products including cooked hams, ready-to-eat meat dinners, puddings, sausages and fresh meat retail cuts. In abattoirs, the enforcement of animal welfare regulations and disposal of animal by-products regulations are important aspects of the inspector's duties. In the course of 2006, 2081 Cattle, 6606 Sheep and 191 Pigs were slaughtered for human consumption in these premises.

Control of Dogs

By arrangement with Limerick City Council we provide the control of dogs service for both Limerick city and county. During the year the Council opened its new Dog Shelter located adjacent to the new Civic Amenity Centre, Mungret. Here stray dogs picked up by the wardens or unwanted dogs handed in are housed and cared for. The Shelter is open to the public 9.30am to 12.30pm, Monday-Friday; anyone interested in re-homing a dog are particularly welcome to call and see the dogs we have available. A policy of micro chipping all dogs being re-homed was introduced during the year and in association with the welfare organisation, Irish Dogs Trust, a subsidised neutering scheme was made available.

The service is funded from dog licence fee income; During the year a total of 9849 individual and 37 general licences were purchased by owners living in the county. This represents a 17% increase on the previous year. The Shelter handled 1390 dogs in total.

Control of Horses

Under the Control of Horses Act, 1996, the Council seized and impounded 44 horses of which 32 were reclaimed by their owners. Horses are released only in accordance with the Council's Bye-Laws and on payment of all fees due.

CIVIL DEFENCE

Limerick County Civil Defence had a very active year. Training continued throughout the County and Civil Defence personnel participated in Operations / Training Exercises and provided Assistance to the local Community.

Training Events Included

- Participation in Regional Casualty and Auxiliary Fire Service Competitions
- Ex Eagle - Simulated air crash Shannon Airport
- Ex Foynes - (Shannon Estuary Anti Pollution Team) SEA-PT
- Annual Training Camp Lahinch Co Clare

Training Locations

Lifesaving / Intermediate First Aid and Kayaking classes were carried out in the following locations:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| - Rathkeale | Life Saving First Aid & Kayaking |
| - Newcastle West | Life Saving First Aid |
| - Kilmallock | Life Saving First Aid |
| - Pallasgreen | Life Saving First Aid |
| - Annacotty | Rescue and Aux Fire Service |
| - Glin | First Aid Trained Personnel |

Courses

- Local Members completed courses and received Certificates in Basic and Intermediate First Aid, GPS (Global Positioning System) and National Power Boat training.
- Civil Defence School - Members attended courses and received certificates in Casualty, Communications, Search Skills and Auxiliary Fire Service Instructor training.
- International - Two Instructors successfully completed a Rope Rescue Course in Wales.

Recruitment

Twenty Three Recruits successfully completed their Lifesaving First Aid Course throughout the year

Community Events / Operations

Civil Defence provided assistance at numerous Local and National events including:

- National Schools Show Jumping Clonshire
- Irish Universities Rowing Regatta
- Search for missing Persons
- Victory Reception for Heineken Cup European Champions (Munster Rugby Team)
- Scouting Ireland Cubaree Pallaskenry
- Kilmallock District Playground Group
- Chernobyl Children Project
- Diocesan Pilgrimage
- Limerick Cycle Race
- Athea Horse Race
- Crecora Show
- Bruff Arts Festival
- Lough Gur Festival
- Cappamore Show
- Kilmallock Medieval Festival
- Adare Cycle Race
- Milford Harvest Fair
- Ballysteen Horse & Pony Ride
- Terry Fox Run Ballingarry
- Irish Student Badminton Tournament UL



Civil Defence Open Day at UL – Instructor John Byrne interacting with the community



Members of Rescue Team during Annual Training in White Strand, Co. Clare.

Civil Defence HQ Annacotty

Refurbishment works commenced on the Annacotty building in October. This facility will be a great asset to the organisation and will be much appreciated by the volunteers.

WATER SAFETY

Lifeguard Service

Four lifeguards and one pier attendant were employed for the Summer bathing season at Glin and Kiltory piers. The exceptionally long spell of fine weather experienced during 2006 led to increased numbers of visitors to these popular bathing areas. Toilet facilities for staff and the public were provided at Glin Pier.

The Maritime Safety Act, 2005

This Act came into force on 29th June 2005 and was therefore in force for 2006. The stated purpose of the Act is to enhance public safety and amenity and to protect natural and other heritage areas, by strengthening the law against the improper use of certain fast power craft such as 'jet skis' and speedboats on coastal and inland waters. Use of leisure boats in the Shannon Estuary in particular is increasing sharply, and the waters in County Limerick are also extensively utilised by boats launched in County Clare and County Kerry.

Local Authorities, the Gardaí and Harbour Authorities have been given extensive new powers under the above Act in relation to

regulation of activities involving small craft on coastal and inland waters. Owners or operators of such craft can be prosecuted for a range of statutory offences. A court can authorise the confiscation of any vessel being used dangerously. No prosecutions under the provisions of the Act were taken during 2006.

Water Safety Area Committee

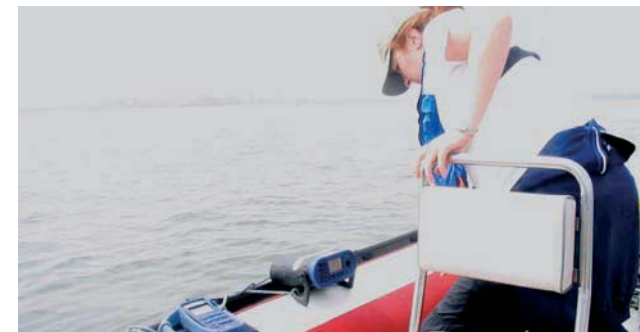
Swimming and lifesaving courses under the syllabii of Irish Water Safety were held at Dohyle Lough, Pallaskenry, Foynes and Glin. Courses could not be run in Askeaton during 2006 as the pool was temporarily closed for major upgrading.



Rigid Inflatable Boat

The Council's boat 'Katie' was used by the Limerick County Area Committee of Irish Water Safety in the 2006 St. Patrick's Day Parade in Askeaton. It was also used to provide safety cover for sailing events in the Shannon Estuary run by Foynes Yacht Club, and for the historic Glin Castle Yacht Race held in Glin in August, 2006 and organised by the Western Yacht Club, Kilrush. Seven members of the Council's staff qualified as drivers to the Irish Sailing Association's 'Powerboat Level 2' standard during 2006. They were Greg O'Shaughnessy, Tina Knox, Antoin Kiely, Madeleine Donaghy, Adrian Insley, Barry Murphy and John Considine.

The boat was also used for water quality monitoring in the Shannon and Deel estuaries.



Ailish O'Driscoll, Technician, monitoring water quality on the Shannon Estuary - July 2006.

Irish Water Safety Council Meeting - December 2006

Limerick County Council hosted the December meeting of the Council of Irish Water Safety in our Council Chamber. At that meeting, recognition awards were presented to staff members who have made a very significant contribution to water safety. Awards were made to Tom Enright, Director Of Services, Tom Cummins, Timmy Hannafin, Jeremiah Shanahan and Dan Shine, foremen. A Media Appreciation Award was presented to Mr. Martin Byrnes of the Limerick Leader.

The Council's Water Safety Development Officer, Mr. John Considine, was appointed by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to the Council of Irish Water Safety, which is the official national body with responsibility for water safety in Ireland, established under S.I. No. 389 of 2006.

CORPORATE PROJECTS

“To embed the principle of social inclusion in all policies, practices and service delivery, in recognition of the diversity, equality and right to inclusion of all people”

National Disability Strategy & Local Government Sectoral Plan

A key element in the Government's overall strategy for people with disabilities is the mainstreaming of services. It places clear obligations and requirements on service providers to ensure that their systems, services and products are accessible to all. Creating a more inclusive society by alleviating social exclusion, poverty and deprivation is one of the major challenges facing Ireland. Social inclusion is a core issue identified in the Local Government Act 2001, and Limerick County Council recognises that meeting the needs of local people with disabilities is one of its core tasks.

According to the 2002 Census of Population, there were 9,230 people with a disability in County Limerick, which represents 8.5% of the total population of the County.

The majority of people with disabilities (approx 77%) do not have mobility impairments, they may however have impaired vision, hearing, intellectual impairments or mental health difficulties and cross the whole life cycle spectrum.

In 2006, the Council assigned funding to Information Systems to deliver the following:

- Council's main web site <http://www.lcc.ie> made accessible to AA standard.
- Make the following web sites associated with Limerick County Council accessible
<http://www.managewaste.ie>
<http://www.limerickedb.ie>
<http://www.countylimerickchildcarecommittee.ie>
<http://www.clsp.ie>
<http://www.lcea.ie>

- Provided 15 accessible workstations for Public Libraries, Area Offices and Council HQ.
- Provided Assistive technologies for persons with disabilities on these Accessible workstations.
- Developed a page on the Council's website to enable persons with disabilities to make us aware of accessibility issues impacting on their lives.

The Loop System



The Loop System in operation in County Hall

A hearing aid user is all too familiar with the problems associated with background noise and at times distance from the sound source. For example it may be difficult for a hearing aid user to hear the television, which is 9-12 feet away, if another person sitting close by is turning the pages of a newspaper. A loop system can solve that problem for the hearing aid user, provided of course the hearing aid is in the 'T' position. The sound is free from background noise and not affected by distance away from the sound source. Some loop systems have the added advantage of tone-controls, usually bass and treble, which allow the sound source to be altered in part at least to suit the hearing users needs.

All Health Service Executive hearing aids, both behind-the-ear and body-worn, manufactured during recent years, provide the 'T' facility. Similarly, many private/commercial hearing aids do so as well, but people should enquire about this before purchasing it.

Accessibility Improvement Works

The Council carried out an accessibility audit of all roads and streets, pavements and pedestrian crossings, public buildings, public parks, amenities and open spaces, heritage sites, public libraries and harbours within its control and identified what remedial action is necessary to make these buildings and facilities accessible for people with disabilities. Following on from this audit the Council has carried out significant accessibility improvement works at Plassey Walk, Castletroy and the Demesne, Newcastle West.



Accessibility improvement works at Plassey Walk



Accessibility improvement works at Demesne, Newcastle West

SERVICE INDICATORS

E: Environmental Services

E1: Water	2004	2005	2006
% of River Channel			
Unpolluted	45.7	45.7	*
Slightly polluted	25.6	25.6	*
Moderately Polluted	27.1	27.1	*
Seriously Polluted	1.6	1.6	*
E2: Percentage of Drinking Water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to Public Schemes	98.2	99.01	*
Percentage of Drinking Water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to Private Schemes	95.6	93.9	*
E3: Fire Services			
Average time in minutes, to mobilise Fire Brigades in			
Time in minutes to mobilise Firebrigades in Full Time Stations	n/a	n/a	n/a
Time in minutes to mobilise Firebrigades in Part Time Stations	4.36	4.43	4.27
E4: Percentage of attendances at scenes where			
First attendance is at scene within 10 minutes	34.25	43.38%	38.73%
First attendance is at scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	45.21	43.08%	44.12%
First attendance is at scene after 20 minutes	20.54	13.54%	17.15%
E5: Fire Prevention - Total number of fire safety certificate applications			
Received	269	200	236
Processed	243	205	225

* EPA/LGCSB Input

SERVICE INDICATORS

E6: Waste Management

% of households provided with segregated waste collection
(Limerick County Council does not operate a Waste Collection Service)

2004

n/a

2005

n/a

2006

n/a

E7: Household waste collected which is sent for recycling

Tonnage

-

4542

4330

% of household waste collected

14.3

14.9

14.8

E8: Household waste collected which is sent to landfill

Tonnage

-

21046

20458

% of household waste collected

84.40%

69.30%

70.10%

E9: Recycling Facilities

Bring Banks Number of Facilities

Glass

47

47

49

Cans

47

47

49

Textiles

9

10

12

Batteries

0

0

0

Oils

0

0

0

Others

44

44

48

Civic Amenity Sites Number of Facilities

Glass

4

4

4

Cans

4

4

4

Textiles

3

3

4

Batteries

3

3

4

Oils

3

3

4

Others

4

4

5

SERVICE INDICATORS

	2004	2005	2006
Total Number of Facilities			
(Bring Banks and Civic Amenity Sites)			
Glass	51	51	53
Cans	51	51	53
Textiles	12	13	16
Batteries	3	3	4
Oils	3	3	4
Others	48	48	53
Bring Banks No of Locations per 5,000 of population			
			Total Number
Glass	2.1	2.1	53
Cans	2.1	2.1	53
Textiles	0.49	0.53	16
Batteries	0.12	0.12	4
Oils	0.12	0.12	4
Others	1.98	1.98	53
Tonnage of Waste collected for recycling per 5,000 population			
			Tonnage
Glass	46.39	48.25	1333.11
Cans	4.32	5.09	147.98
Textiles	2.31	6.44	274.01
Batteries	1.32	2.65	61.4
Oils	0.16	0.32	10.42
Others	70.02	74.30	4028.44

SERVICE INDICATORS

E10: Litter Prevention and Environmental Enforcement

	2004	2005	2006
Litter - Number of Litter Wardens			
Total Number of Full-time Litter Wardens	3	3	3
Total Number of Part-time Litter Wardens	2	2	2
Number of Litter Wardens (both full & part-time) per 5000 population	0.2	0.2	5 (Total Number)
Number of Spot Fines issued	184	112	362
Number of Prosecutions due to non-payment of on-the-spot fines	24	1	7
Number of Prosecutions Secured	1	0	0

% of Areas within the local authority that are

	2004	2005	2006
Unpolluted (i.e. Litter free)	15.7	7.9	20.9
Slightly polluted with litter	45.71	33.7	52.2
Moderately polluted with litter	34.3	47.2	22.4
Significantly polluted with litter	4.29	10.1	4.5
Grossly polluted with litter	0	1.1	0

E11: Environmental Complaints and Enforcement

Total number of cases subject to complaints concerning environmental pollution (relating to waste, litter, water pollution, noise pollution, air pollution)	2, 173	2,282	2383
Number of Complaints investigated	1,989	2,209	2210
Number of enforcement procedures taken	196	366	276

E12: % of Schools participating in environmental campaigns

Primary Schools	38.8	49	56
Secondary Schools	84.2	76	85

COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE

“ **To improve the quality of life of the people of Limerick through supporting the provision of social, community, cultural and recreational initiatives and facilities in order to ensure a healthy and vibrant community** ”

Community, Sport & Cultural Grants Scheme

The Community, Sport & Cultural Grants Scheme established by Limerick County Council in 2005, provides financial assistance for the development of community, recreational, sporting, environmental and cultural facilities in the county. The scheme is intended to assist community based clubs and voluntary organisations as well as providing an extra resource to Limerick County Council to assist in the provision by it of facilities that might not be otherwise funded.

As well as seeking to increase the facilities available in the county, the scheme is also designed to encourage those providing facilities to endeavour to ensure equal access by all and to examine ways in which barriers might be removed. It is also designed to ensure that environmental improvement is encouraged as an element of all developments assisted through the scheme.

The scheme has also been designed to recognise the more limited resources available to some communities and voluntary groups and to give additional assistance where it is clear that an area or organisation has a low level of facilities and cannot improve matters without special assistance.

Finally, the scheme is designed to assist those projects that are receiving funding elsewhere or where no other source of funding is available. Applicants will, therefore be expected to have sought

funding from other available sources before being assisted by the scheme.

Examples of Projects Eligible for Funding

- Specific facilities required by an organisation addressing the needs of disadvantaged groups
- Halls and Meeting Rooms
- Sports facilities
- Parks
- Amenity areas
- Arts projects

Types & Levels of Assistance

Technical Assistance

This fund permits community-based clubs or voluntary organisations to apply for financial assistance towards the cost of preparing a development plan or feasibility study.

Capital Assistance

Assistance under this fund is available to new projects or refurbishments of existing facilities. Funding will be allocated at a variable rate based on criteria. The variable rate is designed to give a higher level of grant assistance to communities and organisations that are most in need and that have least capacity to improve their situation. Rates of support may vary from 10% to 90% of total eligible cost of a project less grants from other sources up to a maximum of €100,000.

Community & Enterprise, Corporate Services & Human Resources



Anne Haugh
Director of Community &
Enterprise, Corporate
Services & Human Resources



COMMUNITY, SPORTS & CULTURAL GRANTS SCHEME 2006 -
SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

APPLICANT / CLUB

GRANT AWARDED

	€
Ahane GAA Club	20,000
Anglesboro Community Council	15,000
Askeaton AFC	25,000
Ballingarry AFC	20,000
Bohermore Handball Club	15,000
Broadford United AFC	20,000
Butterfly Club, Rathkeale	5,000
Caherconlish Tennis Club	20,000
Caherdavin Community Council	50,000
Cappagh Community Council	15,000
Cloverfield Teach Dramaíochta Ltd	20,000
Con Colbert Community Hall Ltd	5,000
Croom Scout Movement (37th Limerick)	20,000
Doon Community Council	20,000
Dromin Community Council	20,000
Effin & Garrienderk Development Association	20,000
Friars' Gate Theatre	20,000
Glin Development Association	20,000
Hospital – Herbertstown GAA Club	
Loughill Community	20,000
Development Association	20,000
Mountcollins GAA Club	30,000
Mungret GAA Club	5,000
Newcastle West Youth	
Club/Limerick Youth Service	20,000
Oola GAA Club	20,000
St. Mary's – Sean Finns Rathkeale	5,000

Total: € 470,000



Askeaton AFC Grounds



Glin Public Amenity Area

Contribution Scheme

2006

	€
University Concert Hall Ltd.	30,000
Foynes Aviation & Maritime Museum	25,000
Hunt Museum, Limerick	10,000
Irish Chamber Orchestra	15,000
Adare Heritage Trust Ltd.	15,000
Belltable Arts Centre, Limerick	9,000
Friarsgate Theatre, Kilmallock	9,000
Palatine Museum, Rathkeale	5,000
Askeaton Civic Trust Heritage Centre	10,000
Abbeyfeale Community Leisure Ltd. (Town Park)	10,000
Centre for Independent Living, Newcastle West	7,000
St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick	5,000
St John's Cathedral, Limerick	5,000
Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann and/or Fleadh Cheoil	6,000
Community Games	6,000
Athea Motorcycle Project	6,000
Limerick Marine Rescue Service	5,000
Limerick Youth Services, Limerick	4,000
Limerick Animal Welfare and/ or Limerick S.P.C.A	4,000
Flagfloor House, Carrickerry	1,000

Total €187,000

In addition an allocation of €25,000 was made available in respect of Christmas Lighting under the Tidy Towns Budget. It was agreed to contribute €5,000 per Electoral Area to meet the cost of insurance and electricity.

PROPOSED VILLAGE RENEWAL GRANTS 2006:

GROUP/ LOCATION	DESCRIPTION OF WORK	AMOUNT PROPOSED €
Athea Community Council	Develop Amenity Area	5,000.00
Ballybricken Parochial Group	Develop Amenity Area	6,000.00
Bruree/Rockhill Development	Develop Amenity Area	5,000.00
Carrigerry Community Centre	Improvements to Community Centre	5,000.00
Castlemahon Development Ass	Develop Amenity Area	3,000.00
Coolcappa Development Committee	Improvements to Community Centre	5,000.00
Coonagh Sports & Social Club	Improvements to Community Centre	6,000.00
Creeves Community Council	Develop Amenity Area	5,000.00
Donoughmore/Knockea/Roxboro Community Association	Upgrade Ballyneety Courthouse	6,000.00
Feenagh Community Council	Develop Amenity Area	2,000.00
Galbally Tidy Towns Committee	Develop Amenity Area	5,000.00
Glenbrohane Tidy Towns	Develop Amenity Area	3,000.00
Kilbehenny Community Council	Develop Amenity Area	5,000.00
Kilcoleman Development	Develop Amenity Area	5,000.00
Killeedy Community Council	Improvements to Community Centre	5,000.00
Kilmeedy Community Dev.Group Ltd.	Develop Amenity Area	2,000.00
Knockcarron Community Council	Improvements to Community Centre	5,000.00
Knocklong Development Association	Develop Amenity Area	3,000.00
Meanus Social & Community Club	Improvements to Community Centre	2,000.00
Mountcollins Development Ass.	Develop Amenity Area	4,000.00
Old Mill Development Ass.	Develop Amenity Area	2,000.00
Oola Tidy Towns	Develop Amenity Area	3,000.00
Pallasgreen Residents' Association	Develop Amenity Area	2,000.00
Pallaskerry Community Council	Improvements to Community Centre	5,000.00
Shanagolden Community Council	Develop Amenity Area	4,000.00
Strand Community Dev.Ass.	Improvements to Community Centre	7,000.00
Total		€110,000.00

Playgrounds

Works on two playgrounds at Newcastle West and at Kilmallock were completed in 2006.

The Newcastle West playground, at the Demesne, was refurbished, with new equipment installed. Monies were provided from the Development Contribution Scheme.

In Kilmallock the community playground committee, with financial assistance from the Development Contribution Scheme, developed a state of the art playground for the town and surrounding areas.

Eight other proposed playgrounds around the county were progressed in 2006.



Playground at Kilmallock

Comhairle na nÓg 2005/2006

The 2005/2006 Comhairle na nÓg was held in December 2005. A total of 49 representatives from Secondary Schools and youth groups in County Limerick attended at the Comhairle. The Comhairle provided a forum for young people aged 12-17 to discuss issues affecting their lives and also provided the opportunity to elect five young people to represent County Limerick at the Dáil na nÓg in March 2006, which was held in the Croke Park Conference Centre. The topics discussed by the delegates were Migration and Interculturalism and After School Childcare in County Limerick. A report on the Comhairle was presented to members of the Community, Social & Cultural SPC and the report was also copied to all secondary schools and youth groups in County Limerick.

The five delegates elected to attend the Dáil na nÓg 2006 were: Sean Byrnes, Castleconnell Youth Club, Castleconnell David White, Crescent College Comprehensive, Dooradoyle Aoibheann Yataki, Newcastle West Youth Club, Newcastle West Aisling Barry, Doon Youth Club, Doon Gearoid Sheehy, Cappamore Youth Club, Cappamore

The 2006 Comhairle na nÓg was held in November, 2006. A total of 46 representatives from Secondary Schools and youth groups in County Limerick attended. The topics discussed by the delegates were Road Safety and Educational Disadvantage.

The five delegates elected to attend the Dáil na nÓg which will be held in February 2007 are:

James O'Doherty, Scoil Pól Secondary School, Kilfinane Stephen Casey, Hazelwood College, Dromcollogher Daniel Lee, St. Fintan's Secondary School, Doon Mary Hogan, Newcastle West Youth Club, Newcastle West Amy Buckley, Newcastle West Youth Club, Newcastle West

Twinning

A delegation of elected members and officials from Limerick County Council, together with representatives from Local Development Companies and the Irish Polish Business Association visited Gdansk in Poland between the 29th May and 2nd June 2006. This was a return visit to Poland as a group of 3 Officials from Local Government bodies in Gdansk, Poland, visited County Limerick on the 19th September 2005. The visit involved the sharing of experiences in relation to Economy and Business and Leader Programmes. A Signature of Agreement between Starogard Gdanski County, City of Starogard Gdanski and Limerick County was also signed.

A delegation of Councillors and Officials from Limerick County Council travelled to Hohenlohe County, Germany in April 2006. As part of the itinerary the delegation visited a number of Incinerators in Mannheim and Wuerzburg and a recycling Facility in Oehringen. Workplacement exchanges were also continued with student graduates from Hohenlohe, Ms. Meike Lang and Mr. Ruddy Rappsilber working in various Departments in Limerick County Council during the summer. Also Ms. Heidrun Sudicum from Hohenlohe worked in the Community & Enterprise Department of Limerick County Council for three weeks during September 2006.

On the 4th October 2006 a delegation from New Brunswick, USA, visited County Limerick. The group included a member from the Fire Department in New Brunswick, Mr. Fred Obado, who visited a number of fire stations in the County and City. Ms. Claire McNerney of Rutgers University, New Brunswick, was also part of the delegation and included in their itinerary was a visit to the University of Limerick, Castletroy College and Colaiste Iosaf in Kilmallock.

A delegation of officials from Timis County Council and Universities in Timisoara, Romania, visited County Limerick on the 9th to the 12th April. The Group visited County Hall where they were given a Presentation on Irish System of Government

and significance of EU Membership; Local Government and Limerick County. A discussion also took place with the Chairperson and Officials on possible future areas of co-operation. They also visited a number of projects and initiatives in the City and met with representatives from Limerick Co-ordination Office, LIT and Limerick Chamber of Commerce.

On the 10th to the 14th September a group of officials from Sweden visited County Limerick with a view to learning from our experiences in the development of the Irish Public Sector. The group came from various public sectors in Sweden such as Elderly Care, Social Services, Primary & Secondary Schools and Rescue Services etc. The group visited County Hall and were given a tour of the building followed by discussions with the Cathaoirleach and a presentation on Limerick County Council and development in Ireland. They were broken into two groups and two workshops were arranged with Anne Haugh, Director of Services and Carmel Kirby, Chief Fire Officer, giving a presentation to one of the Workshops while the second group received a presentation from Ned Toomey, CEO Limerick County Enterprise Board and Finbarr Brogham of Shannon Development. The group also visited a number of projects / initiatives in the County such as Foynes Fire Station, a Nursing Home and a Secondary School.



Delegation from Romania on their visit to County Hall in April.

COUNTY ARTS OFFICE

During the year a multi-disciplinary arts programme for eleven primary schools, a full calendar of exhibitions, our annual literary festival Éigse Michael Hartnett, provided an ever-changing backdrop to a number of new initiatives.



Éigse Michael Hartnett - story teller Jim Barry entertains residents of St Ita's Community Hospital, Newcastle West, during the Michael Hartnett week end

In April and May, the Arts Office and two drama facilitators Fiona Quinn and Janette Madigan gave taster drama workshops in all the county's post primary schools to introduce young people to youth theatre. In September two Youth Theatres were set up, in Manister under Fiona Quinn and in Abbeyfeale under Janette Madigan. The groups meet weekly and finished their first term with performances in the Glorách Theatre, Abbeyfeale and Friars Gate Theatre, Kilmallock.



Young Manister Youth Theatre thespian putting on the make up



Members of Abbeyfeale Youth Theatre on stage

The County Arts Office held auditions in May for the county's first Youth Choir which has been meeting weekly since September. Twenty eight young adults aged 16 to 23 rehearse each Saturday in County Hall under choir director Máire Keary Scanlan. The choir made their debut performance at their Christmas concert in St. Mary's Cathedral.



County Limerick Youth Choir - Winners of First Prize in Feis Maitiú Choral Singing Competition

Music was a big feature of the 2006 programme with an innovative programme of concerts entitled Celebrating Mozart in County Limerick. The series was held on a monthly basis in All Saints Church, Castleconnell, and each concert evening featured an introductory talk on Mozart followed by a programme of chamber music played by national and international string trios



ConTempo Quartet open Celebrating Mozart in County Limerick

The Arts Office innovative integrated dance programme with dancer Mary Hartney expanded into four post primary schools in the county. The residents of Rathfredagh Cheshire Home and the transition year students of Mercy College Rathkeale, Coláiste Mhuire Askeaton, Scoil Mhuire agus Íde Newcastle West and Hazelwood College Dromcollogher, created with Mary a series of lovely and varied dance movement. Councillor Eddie Creighton, Cathaoirleach, formally launched the Council's integrated dance programme in the Council Chamber in December.



Transition year students from Scoil Mhuire agus Íde with residents from Rathfredagh Cheshire Home, Newcastle West

Ten organisations and individuals were awarded grants under the Arts Act 1973. With revised criteria applying to the grants, the awards varied in value from €400 to €2,500. The Council's Arts Individual Bursary, an award of €6,000 was made to Ms. Jessica Bray to assist her with her studies in Musical Theatre at Guildford School of Acting.

LIBRARY

Celebrating Reading and Writing:

Two special programmes to promote the joys of reading and writing were run this year. At Dooradoyle Library 120 children took part in the Summer Reader Passport which had a European theme and lots of prizes. At Adare Library 60 children attended creative writing workshops given by Keith Whelan.



"Tell the King the sky is falling..." October Tales at Dooradoyle Library

Children's Book Festival in October celebrated books and reading through workshops, quizzes, competitions and art and craft activities. Well-known authors who entertained young readers in County Limerick Libraries during the year were Darren Shan, Mary Arrigan, Ré Ó Laighléis, Siobhán Parkinson, Michael Moylan and John W. Sexton.



Unexpected encounter at Newcastle West Library! Rosie's Animals - CBF Event

Social Inclusion:

Access was the keyword in branch libraries in 2006. With a grant of €346,000 received under The National Disability Strategy, extensive access work was carried out in 12 of the county's libraries. Ramps, handrails and user-friendly door controls were installed. In Foynes, a new lift was fitted and disabled parking spaces were provided in Hospital, Foynes and Newcastle West. Ballingarry and Caherconlish libraries were also re-vamped.



Ballingarry Library where disability access work was completed in 2006

In February, EU Commissioner Charlie McCreevy, visited the Europe Direct Information Centre in Dooradoyle Library. The Commissioner emphasised the crucial role that both the library and the EU Direct Centre will play in achieving the commission's goal of greater dialogue, democracy and debate among its citizens.

Vincent Browne Radio Show:

In June, Dromcollogher Library hosted the Vincent Browne Radio Show as part of the town's commemoration of the cinema fire of 1926. The panel of guests who took part on the evening included Mary O'Flynn, the only living survivor of "The Burning".



Vincent Browne and guests at Dromcollogher Library

Life-long Learning:

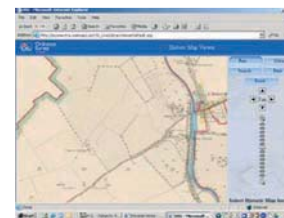
Older members were catered for through a number of special events round the county: in May, "Bealtaine Festival", creativity in older people was celebrated with art work exhibitions in Dooradoyle and Foynes Libraries. Foynes also hosted "International Day" for the elderly in October.

Seachtain na Gaeilge:

Baineadh an-taitneamh as Seachtain na Gaeilge arís i mbliana. Tháinig an laoch ó Chiarraí, Dara Ó Cinnéide, aneas chugainn, bhí Oíche Ghaelach le Maidhc Dainín Ó Sé agus ceardlann dhátheangach le Ré Ó Laighléis chomh maith. Cuireadh alán imeachtaí eile ar siúl: Maidin Bingo, Taispeántas Leabhar Gaeilge agus Seisiún Cheoil ina measc.

Information Technology:

The Library Service in conjunction with Ordnance Survey Ireland provided online access to the historic OSI 6 inch mapping series. These online maps can be viewed in all Branch Libraries.



Sample Ordnance Survey Map

Key Performance Indicators:

18,804	Registered Readers
342,715	Books Issued
333,455	Recorded visits to Libraries - Dooradoyle, Newcastle West, Adare, Abbeyfeale, Foynes and Local Studies
27,644	New titles added to stock
118	Cultural/Civic events hosted
31	Exhibitions held
38,933	Hours of Public Internet use

CORPORATE SERVICES

“To support and enhance the democratic role of the Council and to develop, co-ordinate and promote a corporate culture and business ethos within the organisation.”

The Corporate Services Department covers a wide range of services in addition to providing Management Support Services. The department deals with areas such as Higher Education Grants, Register of Electors, Freedom of Information, Purchasing and a wide variety of ancillary services relating to Council business.

Annual Progress Report on Corporate Plan 2004 - 2009

Section 134 of the Local Government Act 2001, requires preparation and submission of an Annual Progress Report on the Corporate Plan to the Elected Members. Each Directorate produced a progress report on their Operational Plan and these reports were put before the Members at the March 2006 Monthly Meeting.

The following is a report on some of the main outcomes contained in the Annual Progress Report.

Social Inclusion

Staff Awareness Training was completed as part of the implementation of actions from the County Limerick Sectoral Plan under the National Disability Strategy. Capital Works and awareness campaign undertaken in relation to piloting the town of Newcastle West as an accessible town. Agreement reached with Local Development Companies on full county coverage of the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme. There has been an ongoing review of Local Authority Forms in relation to literacy and accessible formats. Annual Report published in various formats (Braille, Audio, As Gaeilge, Website and CD). A public awareness campaign on Higher Education Grants was implemented during the year.

The Library Service provided for full physical accessibility at nine branch libraries for members of the public with physical disability in 2006. A multilingual book collection was provided at Newcastle West Library.

Quality of life

Participation is ongoing in the Adult Literacy Referral Network. Comhairle na nÓg was hosted in County Hall with increased participation. The Irish Sports Council has designated County Limerick as a Formal Sports Partnership.

Funding of €470,000 approved for 25 groups under the Community, Sports & Cultural Grant Scheme. Contributions of €100,000 provided towards development of walking routes in Curraghchase Forest Park and €100,000 towards development of Ballyhoura Mountain Biking Centre. A total of €110,000 approved for 26 groups under the Annual Village Renewal Scheme.

The Library Service advanced a new Local Studies and Archive facility for the public to construction stage. The Library Service advanced a new branch library for the public in Rathkeale to construction stage. Internet access to the public provided at nine

additional libraries. The EU Information Service for the public at Dooradoyle Library was extended in 2006.

Under the Artist in Schools programme 10 residencies were completed in a range of artforms and in size and geographical spread of schools. Twelve Art exhibitions organised with a range of exhibitors from professional to community groups. The Arts Office continued its support for the Integrated Dance Project. Under the Active Age programme a series of events were organised for active age/mature adults. An Arts programme was established for sick children under the Hospital Residency Programme

Housing

The target of 102 Units of Accommodation to be built and 10 Units to be purchased was achieved. The target of 32 Housing Units to be provided under the Affordable Schemes was substantially achieved. Twenty Housing units were provided for elderly applicants in new Housing Schemes as set out in the Building Programme.

A new Halting Site for Travellers at Castletroy was completed and the site at Clondrinagh substantially completed

The Rental Accommodation scheme was introduced and the Scheme commenced by June 2006. The Action Plan for Social & Affordable Housing and Homeless Strategy reviewed.

Rent collection was increased by €312,000. As part of the central heating element of the planned maintenance programme 200 Housing Units were completed in 2006. The Refurbishment Programme for Sharwood (Castlview) Newcastle West and Ballyhahill were completed. A total of 250 Disabled Persons Grants and Essential Repairs Grants were approved.

TRANSPORTATION

Following a lengthy tender process a contract was signed between the National Roads Authority and the Direct Route Consortium for the Limerick Southern Ring Road Phase 2. In November the contract was awarded to Bóthar Hibernian N7 JV to Design and Build the N7 Nenagh to Limerick High Quality Dual Carriageway.

A total of €3,700,000 on National Primary Normal Improvement Works on the N20 Banogue to Hynes Cross, N21 Coolanoran to Cregans Cross and Killarney Pole to Barnagh and N24 Oola to County Boundary and Pallasgreen to Dromkeen.

Road Maintenance – Non National Roads

A total of €1,098,000 was spent on discretionary maintenance on surface dressing, surface restoration, pothole repairs, general maintenance and bridge repairs. All 127 schemes under restoration maintenance were completed as per the plan.

A total length of 196km was restored under the Restoration Maintenance Grant and €2,868,000 was spent on this work.

All 94 schemes under restoration improvement were completed as per the plan and €8,311,000 was spent on this work. A length of 110km was improved under the Restoration Improvement Grant. 78 schemes were completed under the discretionary improvement grant heading and €928,000 was made available for this work.

WATER SERVICES

The Council delivered the equivalent of over 100 billion glasses of potable water to its customers in 2006. We supplied over 30,000 households together with a range of non-domestic customers.

We disbursed €426,000 in operational subsidies to Group Water Schemes to permit these groups provide water to their members. We assisted 74 households in upgrading their private well sources.

In excess of 23,600 laboratory tests were carried out on 1872 samples taken from water supplies. In addition caretakers on water supplies took daily site tests.

Planning commenced on Sewerage Scheme projects to serve Askeaton, Foynes, Shanagolden, Glin, Athea, Dromcollogher, Hospital, Pallasgreen and Bruff.

Construction of the extension of the Shannon Estuary Water Scheme to serve the Pallaskenry/Kildimo area proceeded during the year and this will facilitate the connection of a number of rural water schemes, which are having difficulties with water quality.

18 privately sourced Group Schemes are participating in the Design Build and Operate project for the provision of modern water treatment facilities, which will enable the groups to comply with the requirements of the Drinking Water Regulations. €3.9m was invested in this project during 2006.

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Local area Plans for Bruff and Hospital finalised. A total of 2,305 planning applications were processed in accordance with the statutory deadlines and The number of pre-planning meetings held was 912. The total number of cases subject to complaints that were investigated was 412

The list of 'Approved Agents' to carry out 'on-site' assessments for wastewater treatment systems was updated. Planning application form and guidance notes reviewed by 1/06/2006. A strategy to cater for the 'Take in charge of Estates' was developed and the Housing Strategy was reviewed.

An amount of €12,426,616 development contributions was collected during under the 2003 Scheme. Active promotion of the Council Policy on Water & Sewerage Services for Small Towns and Villages saw sewage treatments works at Caherconlish and Kilfinane constructed and 8 other schemes at advanced planning stage. Support funding of €9,525,000 was provided from the

Development Fund for infrastructural projects and funding of €3,650,000 was provided for the advancement of the public Parks programme.

ENVIRONMENT

Our environmental services continue to grow in importance and in 2006 we saw the opening on 2nd October of a third Civic Amenity Centre for the County located at Bunlicky, Mungret. The facility was constructed in just over 9 months at a cost of €2.65 million.

A total of 2,431 pollution complaints from members of the public were investigated. Of these complaints 711 related to waste. 336 Warning Letters were issued under waste legislation to stop illegal activities. The Council obtained 14 convictions under the Waste Management Acts for various offences. Audits of 25 Waste Collection Permits were carried out to ensure compliance with Permit conditions. The number of proactive pollution surveys of farms, septic tanks and commercial premises conducted was 358.

The Fire Service completed proposals for development of Cappamore Fire Station and received approval to proceed to tender to obtain costings on development of Kilmallock Station. A programme of school visits was again undertaken to improve customer awareness of Fire Safety.

HUMAN RESOURCES

All staffing vacancies that arose during 2006 were filled or are in the process of being filled. There were 59 separate recruitment competitions held during 2006.

Comprehensive training and development programme delivered during 2006 (€590,000 expended, based on the business requirements). Individual and Corporate training needs being identified through the PMDS process. Elected members attended specific training programmes (€6,000 expended). Certified Safe Pass training delivered to 200 staff members during the year.

Health Screening Initiatives (Advice Leaflets, Medical Screening & Flu Vaccination) offered to all staff during year. 2- Day Pre-Retirement Course held in September 2006. Corporate Retirement Function held in November 2006. Comprehensive Health & Safety Programme conducted in 2006. (€100,000 expended on training). All staff received H&S awareness training in conjunction with the launch of the Employee Safety Handbook. Council is the Pilot County for the IPA Certificate in Management Development (Line Managers). Staff Training and Development Policies agreed by Corporate Training Committee and circulated to staff.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

A new system to allow the Public to Purchase & Renew Dog Licences On-Line was launched in the third quarter of 2006.

A full Redesign of WEB Sites Hosted by Limerick County Council was undertaken and also achieved Double A Accessibility in line with international Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) for the following sites. <http://www.managewaste.ie/>, <http://www.limerickcdb.ie/>, <http://www.cclcc.ie/>, <http://www.clisp.ie/>, <http://www.lcea.ie/>

The Members Network was upgraded to Broadband as it became available. A considerable programme of system implementation was completed. Installation of Wireless Links to Area Offices to replace leased lines completed.

FINANCE

Completion of the Annual Financial Statement was achieved within target. The Annual Audit was completed within the schedule determined by the External Auditor. Preparation of Budget for consultation with the Corporate Policy Group and submission to Council achieved within the statutory timeframe.

Target in relation to Treasury Management achieved through the monitoring of cash movement through Business Banking to

ensure maintenance of adequate cash levels. Pilot scheme completed successfully on new on-line travel expenses claim system. Target of Quarterly submission of Financial reports to Council achieved. A number of reviews of collection levels were carried out and collection levels were also monitored based on National Service Indicators and improved cash flow.

CORPORATE SERVICES

Annual Progress Report on the Corporate Plan provided to the Members. Co-ordination and reporting on corporate performance against National Service Indicators completed within the required deadlines. Annual Report produced within the necessary statutory timeframes.

Draft scheme for promotion of the Irish Language prepared in accordance with direction from the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and within the preparation deadline.

A complete review of the Register of Electors was undertaken during the year involving use of considerable resources which impacted enormously on section performance and targets under the operational plan.

System purchased to monitor and analyse call handling and performance of telephone system. Ongoing monitoring of voicemail usage and performance.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

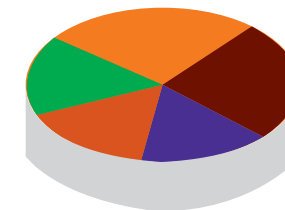
Higher Education Grants

Limerick County Council received 548 new applications for the academic year 2005/2006 and in excess of 800 Renewals were processed. Total expenditure amounted to €3.5 m and an additional €345,722 was paid out as Special Rate of Maintenance (Top Up) Grant. A total of 174 students were awarded Top Up Grants in 2005/2006, which was an increase of 29 students from 2004/2005 academic year.

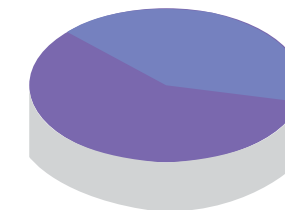
Register of Electors

The Register of Electors is produced annually and comprises a list of all persons over the age of 18 years resident in the County who are entitled to vote in Elections to the Dail, the European Assembly, Presidential and Local Elections and Referenda. The publication date for the Register of Electors is 1st February and the Register comes into effect on the 15th February each year. A Review of the Register was undertaken from June to December 2006, which was a big additional workload on the Section. Extensive promotional Campaigns highlighting and promoting the Register were undertaken. 68 Fieldworkers were involved in the Campaign.

The Local Government Electorate stands at 96,974



Bruff	23,560
Castleconnell	25,218
Kilmallock	14,650
Newcastlewest	16,974
Rathkeale	16,572



County Limerick Dail Electorate stands at 96,340

Limerick East	41,324
Limerick West	55,016

Members of the public can check if they are registered correctly on the Electoral Register on www.lcc.ie (Register of Electors Online Enquiries). If your details are incorrect or you are not registered, please apply for an application form to electoralregister@limerickcoco.ie.

The total population of the County was 131,303 (Census 2006) which showed an increase of 8.3% since 2002. (Preliminary Figures).

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The purpose of the Freedom of Information Acts, 1997 & 2003 is to provide a legal right of access by the public to information held by Public Bodies. The Act sets out the legislative basis under which members of the public can obtain access to official information to the greatest extent possible consistent with the public interest and the right to privacy.

Subject to the provisions of the Act, the Freedom of Information Act, 1997 provides for:

- a legal right to access information held by public bodies.
- a legal right for every person to have official information relating to him/herself amended where it is incomplete, incorrect or misleading.
- a legal right to obtain reasons for decisions affecting oneself.
- The establishment of an independent Office of Information Commissioner to review decisions made by Public Bodies relating to FOI requests.

The Freedom of Information (Amendment) Act 2003 introduced a system of fees relating to Freedom of Information requests and appeals. Since 7th July 2003 a standard application fee of €15 must accompany an FOI request. A reduced fee of €10 applies if the person making such a request is covered by a medical card. There are also some exemptions to the fees.

Making a Request

Access to information / records held by Limerick County Council under Freedom of Information will be by means of the making of a valid Freedom of Information request.

A valid request must ;

1. be made in writing
2. state that the request is made under the Act
3. contain sufficient particulars in relation to the information concerned to enable the record to be identified.
4. Be accompanied by the €15 fee.
All FOI requests should be addressed to the Freedom of Information Officer.

Total Requests Received in 2006 - 30

Personal	1
Non- Personal	26
Mixed	3
Granted	20
Part Granted	5
Refused	5
Transferred	0
Handled outside FOI	0
Internal Reviews received	0
Fees Charged	€435

INTERNAL AUDIT

The Internal Audit Section is an independent function that reviews the systems, procedures and internal controls in place throughout the Council. These reviews are carried out in order that management can have confidence that the systems and procedures they have put in place:-

- Safeguard the assets of the Council
- Safeguard staff
- Promote high standards of accountability
- Help guard against fraud
- Promote effective service delivery
- Support delivery of corporate objectives.

The ongoing work of the Internal Audit Section involves the following activities:

- Review and implement Audit Plan.
- Review County Checker Procedures.
- Work with external auditors.
- EU audit requirements.
- Review performance indicators.
- Co-ordinate value for money studies.

The County Checker operates within the internal audit function and carries out a continuous audit of financial transactions in areas such as revenue collection, cash receipting and motor tax collection.



WORKPLACE PARTNERSHIP

A new Workplace Partnership Committee is in place since October. This committee consists of Tom Lavery and Seamus O'Dwyer, SIPTU, Dave Leahy, LAPO, Tony Storan and Helen O'Neill, IMPACT, Tom Enright, Pat Fitzgerald, Donal Brennan, Noreen Fahey and Anne Haugh, Management.

Handling Significant Change Through Partnership

LANPAG adopted the new protocol "Handling Significant Change through Partnership" in 2004, because it had become clear that managers, union representatives and employees across the local authority system all agreed that more could be achieved through partnership than was being achieved. LANPAG had acknowledged this in the strategy statement Deepening Partnership in Local Government: Strategic Plan 2003-2005, which stated that in many cases management and unions were handling non-contentious issues through partnership and that partnership must also be capable of addressing more difficult, substantive issues.

In accordance with the objectives of “Handling Significant Change through Partnership” the Partnership Action Plan 2006 - 2008 was considered and adopted by the main committee during the year.

Return to Learning

Return to Learning involves partnership between the 34 Local Authorities, VEC, Department of Education and Science and LANPAG and is now considered a vital cog in the lifelong learning process. The Return to Learning Scheme is now entering its fifth year in Limerick County Council. To date over twenty staff have participated in this course with four members achieving FETAC accreditation in Basic Computers in 2006. Basic Computer training was provided for Supervisory Outdoor Staff in the Kilmallock and Rathkeale VEC centres.

Low Value Purchase Cards

Low Value Purchase Cards Scheme was broadened out throughout the county as the need arose during the year. It is planned to extend the scheme inhouse in the future.

Health & Safety

2006 saw the launch of the Employee Safety Handbook produced by LASAG in co-operation with LANPAG to enable staff comply with the Safety, Health & Welfare at Work Act 2005. Health & Safety is now an ongoing mandatory item for agendas for all Partnership Working Groups.

Personal Protective Equipment

A Personal Protective Equipment Working Group was established in 2006. Tender documents were prepared and a process put in place where all PPE sizes will be on a database for the future. This working group is to remain in place and have regard to the principles of value for money and compliance with the Health & Safety Act 2005.

Machinery Yard

Regular meetings of the machinery yard review group are held with an emphasis on health & safety, flexibility and value for

money. There is ongoing implementation of the five year machinery programme and an ongoing updating of the fleet management database. Driver awareness courses are also ongoing and forty members of staff have completed the course to date.



Members of the Personal Protective Clothing Working Group.

HUMAN RESOURCES

“**To enable, encourage and support our Councillors and Employees to perform, contribute and develop to their full potential**”

Employment numbers in Limerick County Council have remained static at 975 since 2002.

A staff embargo, in place since 2002, has prevented the Council from employing additional staff to meet the ever-increasing needs of the people of the county. The Council is fortunate to have a dedicated and flexible workforce that has adapted well to the increasing demands being placed upon the organisation. The current staff are employed at forty six locations around the county. The single largest location is the County Hall, Dooradoyle, Co.Limerick. Other locations include Area Offices,

Depots, Libraries, Site location, etc.

The primary responsibility of the Human Resources Department is to ensure that the organisation has high calibre, well motivated staff in its employment and that they possess the range of skills and aptitudes necessary to provide the people of County Limerick with a first class service. To meet this objective the Human Resources Department pursues a range of activities including;

- Staff recruitment and retention
- Staff development and training
- Staff relations
- Work / Life balance initiatives
- Staff Support Services
- Equality
- Pensions Administration
- Performance Management

Staff Recruitment

Due to staff turnover and to the creation of new contract posts fifty six recruitment competitions were held during the year. Outlined below is a profile of these competitions:

	Male	Female
No. of Candidates	708	788
No. of Candidates called to Interview	478	574
No. placed on Panels	304	178
No. Employed	77	52
Gender Make Up of Interview Boards	102	51

Staff Development

Limerick County Council continued its commitment to Training and Development of its staff in 2006 by spending €468,572 on direct delivery of training. This level of investment, together with the associated costs far exceeds the national target of 3% of payroll costs.

The commitment to continually training our Outdoor staff was in evidence with a wide range of Courses organised throughout the year. The training covered all aspects of roads, housing and sanitary skills that our dedicated Outdoor Staff required. Twenty-seven separate Fás Safe-Pass Training days were also organised involving 200 staff members. The Council's Financial Management Software was upgraded in 2006 which meant all users (both County Hall and Area Offices) had to be retrained by our In-House Support Team. Other major training included Site Inspection Training for Planning and Environment staff, Customer Service course for Motor Taxation staff, and obviously on-going Health and Safety Courses throughout the year.

A total of thirty-two staff commenced the IPA Certificate in Local Government Studies during 2006. Ten staff members commenced the Diploma in Local Government Studies during the year. The Council continued its support of staff members in pursuing Personal Development in their own time.

Performance Management & Development System

PMDS is a continuous development process which encompasses a structured system of organising work, clarifying roles and responsibilities, and developing staff. Staff are organised into teams, and Team Development Meetings are held which facilitate all staff to have an input into how their team functions and performs. Annual Team Development Plans are drawn up, and these then facilitate team members to create Personal Development Plans. These meetings and plans create a culture of dialogue and communication which ultimately improves the service Limerick County Council provides to its customers.

During the course of the year, PMDS was further embedded in

Limerick County Council. By the end of 2006, almost 800 staff members had attended PMDS Awareness Sessions. Line Managers were trained in the facilitation of both the Team Development Plan Meeting and the Personal Development Plan Meeting. Team Development Plan meetings had taken place throughout Community & Enterprise, Corporate Services, and Environment. Personal Development Plan meetings were also well under way by the end of 2006.

Staff Support & Equality

2006 was a busy year in Staff Support & Equality, with both new and regular activities across a broad spectrum.

The annual Long Service Function for staff who have worked with us for 20 years was held in April, and the Retirement Function for all staff who retired during 2006 was held in November. Both functions were a great success, in particular the Retirement Function which is hugely appreciated by both the retiring staff members and their families.

Cholesterol screening was offered to all staff in June, with a third of staff taking up the offer. A team of nurses visited staff in their workplaces and this proved to be very worthwhile. In November, flu vaccinations were offered to staff at a significantly reduced cost, and again a small medical team visited staff in their workplaces to provide the vaccinations.

We continue to provide access to counselling through a free-phone helpline for staff experiencing personal or work related difficulties, and 74 counselling sessions were provided free of charge to staff members during 2006.

Equality awareness presentations were given to all new staff during the course of Induction Days in November. These presentations focussed on the Council's Dignity at Work Charter, our policies in relation to Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Bullying, and the means of resolving these issues which are available to staff.

Limerick County Council entered the 02 Ability Awards Competition in September of 2006. The first stage of this

competition centred on a written submission putting forward the merits of the Council in the employment of people with disabilities. We were successful in qualifying through this first stage, to the second stage which involves an on-site assessment to take place in early 2007.



Retirement Function 2006

SERVICE INDICATORS

C:	CORPORATE ISSUES	2004	2005	2006
C.1:	Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through			
	certified leave	2.733	3.87	2.67
	uncertified leave	0.296	0.38	0.43
C.2:	Expenditure on Training and Development as a percentage of total			
	Payroll costs	3.81	5.31	5.28
L:	LIBRARY SERVICES			
L.1:	Public opening hours			
	average number of opening hours per week for full-time libraries	35.7	36.5*(a)	38
	average number of opening hours per week for part-time libraries (where applicable)	14.0	12.0*(b)	9*(d)
				Total Number
L.2:	Number of registered library members as a percentage of the local population	15	15.5	18804
L.3:	Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for:			Total Number
	(a) Books	2.95	2.85	335836
	(b) Other Items	0.06	0.07	6879
L.4:	Percentage of libraries that offer Internet access to the public	41.7	70.37*(c)	79.1
L.5:	Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population	259	275	30996*(e)

*(a) Lunchtime opening was introduced in Glin and Adare Libraries in 2005

*(b) Includes 15 part-time, 2 mobiles and 5 centres – Note: Rathkeale library is temporarily closed due to renovations.

*(c) 9 New Internet sites were added in late 2005

*(d) Applying the revised methodology for unscheduled closures has resulted in a decrease in opening hours for part-time libraries.

*(e) Decrease in the number of internet sessions by 2,330 hours due to closures for refurbishment works as part of the disability strategy.

SERVICE INDICATORS:

A&C: ARTS AND CULTURAL SERVICES**2004****2005****2006****A&C:1 Arts Grants**

number of arts grants paid

32

12

11

total value of arts grants paid per 1,000 population

€85.53

€131.93

€16,000 **(Total value)****R: RECREATIONAL SERVICES****Rec:1 Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population**

directly provided by the local authority

0.01

0.01

1

facilitated by the local authority

0.01

0.01

2

Rec: 2 Number of visitors to local authority facilitated swimming facilities

Per 1,000 population (Not applicable to Limerick County Council)

0

0

0*(a)

C.P: COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION & CO-OPERATION – YOUR LOCAL AUTHORITY**C.P:1 Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/
Comhairle na n-Óg scheme**

9.5

67

71*(b)

The 2004-2005 Comhairle na n-Óg was held in March 2005.

67% of the schools in Co. Limerick attended the Comhairle na n-Óg 2004/2005

Delegates from 14 of the 21 Post-Primary Schools, 2 Youth Clubs and 1 traveller

Training Centre attended the Comhairle. A total of 44 young people aged between 12-17 attended.

*(a) Limerick County Council does not have swimming facilities at present

*(b) Limerick County Council invite participants from all second level schools

Youth groups and training centres in County Limerick (21 in all) . The figure of 71% is based on the second level schools, youth groups and training centres who sent participants on the day.



Finance, Information Systems & Motor Taxation



Oliver Killeen
Head of Finance &
Information Systems

FINANCE

“ To provide relevant, timely and accurate financial information to assist in the making of informed decisions ”

Finance Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2006

	2006 €	2005 €
Fixed		
Operational	296,655,939	271,343,275
Infrastructural	1,963,252,715	1,848,354,436
Community	552,748	552,748
Non-Operational	12,037,849	11,639,126
	2,272,499,251	2,131,889,585
Work-in-Progress and Preliminary Expenses	249,196,819	289,136,789
Long Term Debtors	27,898,154	27,438,318
Current Assets		
Stock	255,822	270,069
Trade Debtors and Prepayments	14,096,398	7,398,266
Bank Investments	31,644,656	21,138,751
Cash at Bank	-	1,307,412
Cash on Hand	13,360	13,360
	46,010,236	30,127,858
Current Liabilities		
Bank Overdraft	54,398	-
Creditors & Accruals	27,898,324	13,785,578
Urban Account	-	-
Finance Leases	93,881	93,881
	28,046,603	13,879,459

Finance

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2006

	2006 €	2005 €
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)	17,963,633	16,248,399
Creditors (Amounts greater than one year)		
Loans Payable	59,632,884	61,393,658
Finance Leases	153,742	239,607
Refundable Deposits	1,144,656	1,138,751
Other	-	-
	60,931,282	62,772,016
Net Assets / (Liabilities)	2,506,626,575	2,401,941,075
Financed By		
Capitalisation Account	2,272,499,251	2,131,889,586
Income WIP	249,219,688	287,349,596
Specific Revenue Reserve	384,904	384,904
General Revenue Reserve	1,027,243	427,170
Other Balances	(16,504,510)	(18,110,179)
Total Reserves	2,506,626,576	2,401,941,077
Prompt Payment of Accounts Interest		
Total paid - €2600.93		

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2006

The Income and Expenditure Account Statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure. It shows the surplus/(deficit) for the year.

	Gross Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditure	Net Expenditure
	2006	2006	2006	2005
Expenditure by Programme Group	€	€	€	€
Housing & building	7,913,076	6,819,361	1,093,715	765,804
Road transportation & safety	34,124,020	20,708,945	13,415,075	11,856,804
Water supply & sewerage	14,850,749	6,082,153	8,768,596	7,468,391
Development incentives & control	5,731,309	3,198,187	2,533,122	2,555,550
Environmental protection	16,850,663	13,380,808	3,469,855	5,700,109
Recreation & amenity	4,634,884	494,519	4,140,365	3,839,190
Agriculture, education, health & welfare	7,688,554	6,316,025	1,372,530	596,290
Miscellaneous	6,256,297	1,888,896	4,367,400	4,952,218
Support services	-	-	-	-
Sundry debtors	-	-	-	-
Total	98,049,552	58,888,894		
Net Cost of Programmes to be funded from Rates and Local Government Fund			39,160,658	37,734,357
Local government fund			24,160,987	22,513,686
Commercial rates			23,948,427	22,084,226
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before			8,948,756	6,863,556
Transfers from/(to) Reserves			(8,348,683)	(6,273,465)
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year			600,073	590,091
General Reserve at 1st January			427,170	(162,921)
General Reserve at 31st December			1,027,243	427,170

SUMMARY OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

	2006	2005
	€	€
Expenditure (Net of Internal Transfers) *		
Housing & Building	28,866,048	33,660,578
Road Transportation & Safety	107,726,330	48,350,841
Water Supply & Sewerage	16,000,046	15,412,225
Development Incentives & Control	5,215,169	3,092,495
Environmental Protection	7,135,406	2,058,831
Recreation & Amenity	2,164,126	108,358
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	-	-
Miscellaneous	4,969,519	2,710,723
	172,076,644	105,394,051
Income (Net of Internal Transfers) *		
Housing & Building	30,128,887	34,539,413
Road Transportation & Safety	100,348,859	48,425,123
Water Supply & Sewerage	13,785,446	17,545,457
Development Incentives & Control	16,094,202	14,260,424
Environmental Protection	6,954,665	2,647,840
Recreation & Amenity	1,967,188	60,000
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	-	-
Miscellaneous	3,103,021	2,146,983
	172,382,267	119,625,239
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	305,624	14,231,188
Balance (Debit)/Credit @ 1st January	17,037,147	2,805,959
Balance (Debit)/Credit @ 31 December	17,342,771	17,037,147

* Excludes internal transfers, includes transfers to and from Revenue account

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

“ **To maintain and progress a secure and reliable infrastructure of Information and Communications systems which will facilitate the management and operations of Limerick County Council** ”

The main areas of activity in the I.T. section are as set out: -
Council WEB Site <http://www.lcc.ie>

- Over 2 million hits during 2006.
- Maintained Double A Accessibility in line with international Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG).
- Implement On-Line Payments system for Dog Licences.
- A number of users updating their own content using Microsoft Content Management Server.
- Web Sites hosted by Limerick County Council were redesigned during 2006, and have achieved Double A Accessibility in line with international Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG).
- Limerick Clare Kerry Regional Waste Management - <http://www.managewaste.ie/>
- Limerick County Development Board - <http://www.limerickcdb.ie/>
- County Limerick Childcare Committee - <http://www.clcc.ie/>
- County Limerick Local Sports Partnership - <http://www.clfsp.ie/>
- Limerick Clare Energy Agency - <http://www.lcea.ie/>

Systems Development\Implementation

- Installed TREND MICRO™ OfficeScan™ Anti-Virus Software.
- Upgraded Agresso Financial Management System to Version 5.4.
- Developed G.I.S. Public Lighting System.
- Developed G.I.S. Digitising Tool.
- Implemented new G.I.S. Planning Enquiry System.
- Implemented new Revenue Collection System for Revenue Collectors.
- Piloted Intranet Leave system in three sections.

Wide Area Network

The Wide Area Network now comprises of HQ and 14 remote offices. Installation of wireless links between County Hall and the Five Area Offices was completed during the year. This increases the bandwidth to Area Offices from 512k to 34Mbs. Improvements were made to Members links to County Hall during 2006, with 14 Members now using Broadband, and 12 using ISDN. Further improvements will be made as services become available.

I.S. Helpdeks

- Three Staff Assigned to I.S. Helpdesk.
- I.S. Helpdesk Management System 'iTech', with automatic logging & ac of emailed calls.
- Remote Desktop Management System.
- Dedicated Helpdesk Telephone Number with Hunt Sequence on all I.S. extensions.
- 4,500 calls logged with the helpdesk during the year.

Intranets Project

Continued emphasis on Knowledge Management using the Council Intranet by :

- Publication of all Circular letters.
- Publication of Policy Documents.
- Publication of Training Documentation.

Staff Development

Members of staff participated in the following training courses during 2006.

Course

No. of Participants

Diploma in Project Management.	1
M. Sc. In Software & I.S.	1
Microsoft Certified System Administrator	2

Course

No. of Participants

Administering Citrix Presentation Server 4	2
Certificate in Local Government Studies	1



MOTOR TAXATION

The Motor Taxation Section of Limerick County Council is responsible for a wide range of activities and services such as: -

- Issuing of Vehicle Licences
- Issuing of Driving Licences
- Recording of Driving Licence Endorsements and Disqualifications
- Processing of Pre-January 1993 changes of vehicle ownership
- Issuing of Certificates of Roadworthiness for Heavy and Light Goods Vehicles.
- Issuing of Trade Plates to Motor Traders

There are now a number of options available to the general public to Tax their vehicles:

- On-Line taxing (private use only) through www.motortax.ie. All you need to do this is a credit card or laser card, your motor insurance details, your PIN as supplied by the VRU in Shannon on your renewal notification.
- Through the post to PO Box 54, Lower Mallow Street, Limerick
- At our Area Office located in Áras William Smith O'Brien, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick
- At our Headquarters currently located at Lower Mallow Street, Limerick, between the hours of 9.30a.m. to 3.30p.m. daily, including lunchtime.

In addition to the services provided, the Motor Taxation Section facilitates other Government Agencies by providing members of the public with information on the National Car Test (N.C.T.): The Driver Theory Test and the Driving Test.

The office liaises regularly with the Gardaí, the Revenue Commissioners and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Department of Transport regarding Vehicle & Driver Licensing issues.

STATISTICAL DATA

The Total number of transactions carried out by the County Limerick Motor Taxation Office during the Year 2006 was 140,107, an increase of 3,793 transactions on 2005 figure.

The total receipts for 2006 were €22,046,595. Of this, 44,240 transactions were carried out in Newcastle West, representing 31.5% of the overall business of the Motor Taxation Office. This is an increase of 6.4% on last year.

TAXES

Vehicle Licences (Tax Discs) are issued by the Motor Taxation Section for persons wishing to tax their vehicles on a quarterly, half yearly or annual basis. The total number of taxes issued for all categories of vehicles (i.e. private, goods, motor cycles etc) was 103,954. The number of vehicle arrears receipts amounted to 7,382.

OTHER TRANSACTIONS

The total number of Driving Licences issued was 18,666. Other miscellaneous transactions, such as replacement registration books, vehicle testing, trade plates, miscellaneous receipts etc amounted to 10,105.

ONLINE TAXING

Motor Tax online is managed and operated by the Vehicle Registration Unit in Shannon, Co. Clare, who issues a unique pin number with the Motor Tax Renewal Notice, thus, allowing access to the service. Once the online transaction is completed the tax disc will be issued by the VRU directly to the applicant. The website is www.motortax.ie or www.motarchain.ie (as Gaeilge).

The Motor Tax online facility issued 31,716 tax discs in 2006, accounting for 23.71% of the total number of tax discs issued by Limerick County Motor Tax for the same period.

The Motor Tax classifications which are eligible to avail of the online service are: Private Cars, Agricultural Tractors, Excavators, Motor Cycles, Exempt (Disabled Drivers), Vintage/Veteran and Motor Caravans. In 2006, the VRU in Shannon introduced the first time taxing of new or imported vehicles.



SERVICE INDICATORS

	2004	2005	2006
M. MOTOR TAXATION			
M.1 Number of Motor Tax transactions which			
are dealt with over the counter		93,286	95,417
are dealt with by post		39,410	40,368
are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)		*	31,716
*Supplied by VRU			
Percentage of Motor Tax Transactions which			
are dealt with over the counter	62.4979	70.43	56.97
are dealt with by post	37.5021	29.57	24.1
are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	0	*	18.93
*Supplied by VRU			
M.2 Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e.disc/driver licence issued) from receipt of the application			
(a) on the same day	44,093	35,586	29,742
(b) on the third day or less	957	2,676	6,870
(c) on the fifth day or less	0	697	2,583
(d) over 5 days	0	451	1,173
Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e.disc/driver licence issued) from receipt of the application			
(a) on the same day	98.7996	90.88	75.00*(a)
(b) on the third day or less	1.2004	6.45	16.00*(b)
(c) on the fifth day or less	0	1.64	6
(d) over 5 days	0	1.04	3
M.3 Public Opening hours			
Average number of opening hours per week	30	30	30

*(a) From July to Year end
Licences taken in over the
counter and subsequently
returned by post were recorded
as post for the purpose of Service
Indicator

*(b) Decrease in same day return
% was impacted on by the
introduction of a pilot project of
dealing with licences in back
office - we have now reverted to
issue of licence over counter

SERVICE INDICATORS

		2004	2005	2006
REV	REVENUE COLLECTION			
REV.1	House Rent			
	(a) Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due	94.57	96.72	96.00
	(b) Percentage of arrears			
	(i) 4 - 6 weeks old	8.00	13.00	16.79
	(ii) 6 - 12 weeks old	18.00	20.00	14.32
	(iii) more than 12 weeks old	57.00	42.00	45.78
REV.2	House Loans			
	(a) Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due	75.00	76.00	78.00
	(b) Percentage of arrears			
	(i) 1 month old	2.00	3.00	3.00
	(ii) 2 - 3 months old	3.00	2.00	1.00
	(iii) more than 3 months old	94.00	93.00	93.00
REV.3	Commercial Rates			
	Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due	98.00	98.00	96.00*(a)
REV.4	Refuse Charges			
	Percentage of households paying refuse charges at year end	0	0	0*(b)
REV.5	Non Domestic Water Charges			
	Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due	87.00	87.00	90.00

*(a) Procedure for dealing with write offs was amended and strengthened in 2006

*(b) Private operator - No Council Provision



Area Office Development

BRUFF/CASTLECONNELL

The Bruff/Castleconnell Electoral Area encompasses the urban areas of Caherdavin, Raheen/Dooradoyle and Castletroy/Annacotty plus the rural areas of north-east Limerick. It serves a population of 67,000 people from two offices in Annacotty and Croom. A total staff compliment of 118 managed an overall budget of just over €9.3m.

Bruff

The Bruff Area Committee has seven members and held eleven area committee meetings during the year under the chairmanship of Cllr. John Clifford

- The budget managed by the Bruff Area Office was €2.8m

During the year the following were some of the works carried out in the Area:

- New speed limits were introduced throughout the area.
- Eleven housing estates were taken in charge in the city environs
- All schools in the area had advance-warning amber flashing lights erected on their approaches.
- Treacy's Bar on Main Street, Bruff was demolished to facilitate a new junction layout



Riverside Park, Bruff

Castleconnell

The Castleconnell Area Committee has seven members and held eleven area committee meetings during the year. Cllr. Noreen Ryan was elected to the chair at the October monthly meeting to replace Cllr. Mary Jackman.

- The budget managed by the Annacotty Area Office was €6.5m.

During the year the following were some of the works carried out in the Area:

- 3km of the Newport Road (R503) was reconstructed and finished with bitumen overlay
- A new Halting Site was opened in Castletroy
- Annacotty village renewal scheme including road realignment, footpaths, car parking and roundabout on Newtown road.
- Eight housing estates in the city environs were taken in charge
- A new footpath was constructed linking Old Pallasgreen to the graveyard



The Schumann Building, UL

KILMALLOCK

Kilmallock Area Committee

During the year Kilmallock Area Committee held 6 meetings, and also 4 no. Special Meetings to consider Area Plans for the towns of Hospital and Kilfinane.

In July Councillor John Gallahue assumed the Chair for a period of 1 year.

Housing

- Kilmallock Area Office continued to maintain an increasing Housing Stock.
- In December, 12 new Social Housing units were allocated at Station Close, Knocklong.
- 5 new demountable dwellings were provided in Kilmallock area during the year.
- Work commenced on the construction of 10 no. Social Housing units at Hospital, and on a turnkey development of 6 units at Deeber Place, Kilmallock.
- Under the Voluntary Housing Scheme an extra 11 units are under construction in Ballylanders, and 3 in Knocklong.
- A scheme for the installation of Central Heating in County Council houses which commenced in 2005 continued through 2006 and will also be operated in 2007.

Roads

In the Kilmallock Roads area the following works were carried out:

- Regional Road Reconstruction -24,218m² at a cost of €411,706.
- Regional Road Surface Dressing -49,300m² at a cost of €157,762.
- Regional Road Specific Improvement - €130,000 (Footpath and accommodation works for replacement of Knocklong railway bridge).
- Regional Road Discretionary Improvement- €100,248(footpaths and drainage).
- Local Roads Reconstruction-98,271m² at a cost of €1,551,702.
- Local Roads Surface Dressing-197,036m² at a cost of €541,877.
- Local Roads Discretionary Improvements - €66,248 (footpaths and drainage).

In addition a sum of €300,000 was allocated from the Development Fund for footpaths in Hospital, Ballyorgan and Charleville Road, Kilmallock and the provision of extra car parking and surfacing at Garrienderk Church, Effin. The footpaths in Hospital and Kilmallock are still in progress and the other works are yet to commence. Also approx. 4.00km of the N20 was overlaid with asphalt.

Work commenced on the new Kilmallock Machinery Yard at Gotoon Kilmallock, and it is expected to be completed early in 2007.

Urban Renewal works costing €1.5 m. were commenced at The Square, Kilfinane. The work comprises improved footpaths, public lighting, regulated parking areas, amenity / recreational / shared space areas with urban landscaping and centerpiece water feature.



Knocklong Railway Bridge Specific Improvement Works 2006 with Pedestrian Walkway on left hand side.

Walled Towns' Conference

The Area Office organised a two-day Walled Towns' Conference on 24/25th August which was opened by Minister of State for the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government Mr. Batt O'Keeffe T.D. The conference attracted a wide range of people (over 60 people attended) and the papers were extremely well received. Walking tours of the town walls and conservation projects were given on 24th and tours of the Collegiate Church and the Dominican Priory were conducted by John Bradley on 25th. The Area Office also ran a shop-front competition which had a historic theme and many thanks are due to the businesses in Kilmallock for their participation.



Group at the Launch of Kilmallock Walled Towns' Conference, including Minister of State, Mr. Batt O'Keeffe .T.D, An Chathaoirleach Councillor Eddie Creighton and Deputy County Manager, Gerry Behan.



Fogarty's Chemist, Entrant in Kilmallock Shop Front Competition

The Area Office subsequently organised a photographic competition on the theme of the defensive walls. This was very kindly sponsored by the Arts Office. The winners were entered in the National Competition and the winning images can be seen on the Irish Walled Towns' Network web site.

NEWCASTLE WEST

The Newcastle West Area Office provides a wide range of engineering and administrative services to the Newcastle Electoral Area. These include road maintenance, housing, water services, and maintenance of burial grounds, libraries, courthouses, planning clinics, and motor tax facility.

Area Committee Meetings

The Newcastle Area Committee has five members and held thirteen Area Committee Meetings during the year. Meetings were held at a number of locations throughout the area and Members received ten deputations. Jerome Scanlan, M.C.C., is the current chairman.

Roads:

Expenditure on maintenance and improvement works in Newcastle West Roads Area was €7.7 million, financed by way of Government Grants, E.U. Co-Financed Grants and Council's own resources.

Under E.U. Co-Financed Program, the following projects were advanced:-

- (i) New Bridge over River Arra in Newcastle West, together with new Traffic Management arrangement involving roundabout.
- (ii) Major road re-surfacing works on the R.522 Dromcollogher Road from Bunoke Bridge towards Feohanagh. This scheme also included for widening of Ardnacrohy Bridge.

Other road expenditure programs included:-

- Major road surface overlay on N.21 from Killarney Pole to Barnagh.
- A large number of road strengthening and surface dressing schemes.
- 21 no. Local Improvement Schemes.

Development Fund Projects:

Works carried out at Courtenay School, Newcastle West, St. Mary's Road, Newcastle West, Athea and St. Ita's Terrace, Abbeyfeale and Dromcollogher.



Set down Area for Courtenay Boys' School, Bishop Street, Newcastle West, constructed in August.

Housing:

The regeneration project commenced on Castlevew / Sharwood Estates in 2006.

Construction of four new houses was commenced as part of the project. CCTV cameras were installed in both estates and upgrading of footpaths and installation of new ornate lighting is under way.

Under the refurbishment program a specially adapted house was made available to West Limerick Resources as a Resource Centre. A number of agencies and voluntary organisations are using the facility. It is providing a valuable community resource for the area.

Water Services:

A Supervisory Control and Data Analysis Project (SCADA) for Water Services is currently being piloted in the Newcastle West Area. The contract for the installation of the computerised system in the Abbeyfeale water treatment plant and surrounding watermain network at Athea, Templeglantine, Tournafulla and Mountcollins was awarded in 2006. When completed, the system will feed valuable data to computers/mobiles in picture and text form showing the running of the entire network. The system will facilitate an immediate reaction from repair/maintenance staff, where problems arise. This is a pilot scheme and, if successful, will be rolled out to all areas throughout the county.

Construction work commenced on connecting Tobergal spring source to Newcastle West water treatment plant, thereby, augmenting the supply. This will reduce dependency on the Deel.

Consultants have been appointed and have commenced work on the design for Dromcollogher and Athea Sewerage Treatment Plant.

Newcastle West Area Staff made 108 new water connections to public mains in 2006.

Planning:

A small number of Planning Clinics, by appointment, were held in the Area Office during the year. However, the Plan Map System is widely used.

Motor Tax:

The Motor Tax service in Newcastle West continues to grow. In 2006 a total of €6.46 m was collected and 44,240 transactions were carried out. This represents 31.5% of the overall transactions of Motor Tax.

Machinery Section:

Up-grading of the plant and Equipment in the Machinery Section continued in 2006 with the addition of:

- A new 26,000 Kg. Tipper Lorry.
- Two rollers, and
- Three long wheel base vans.

The five-year program drawn up in 2003 is proving very successful and has resulted in a large amount of the plant being modernised.

CASTLE DEMESNE:

Further progress in the upgrading of Newcastle West's Demesne was achieved during the year. Most of the footpaths have now been surfaced in tarmac to facilitate wheelchairs, child buggies and, indeed, to provide a trip-free surface. A new entrance and overhead barrier was also constructed adjacent to the tennis club. Four information boards were put in place to inform the public of the history and ecology of the Demesne.

Following the upgrading over the past few years, usage of the Demesne has increased dramatically. This also has been facilitated by improved car-parking.

On 5th November, we played host to R.T.E.'s Duncan Stewart and his Eco-Eye team, who photographed and interviewed for a shot on National T.V., to be aired in January 2007. Mr. Stewart was very taken by the fantastic asset in public ownership so close to the centre of the town.

Funding for the 2006 Improvement works in the Demesne was provided mainly under the National Disability Department of the Environment Grants Program.

Also in 2006, the Children's Playground was up-graded to a State of the Art facility.



Newcastle West Playground

RATHKEALE

RATHKEALE ELECTORAL AREA

The Rathkeale Office provides a range of engineering and administrative services to the Rathkeale area, that include Road Maintenance and Re-construction, Housing, Sanitary, Water, and Customer Services.

AREA COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Rathkeale Area Committee met sixteen times during 2006, with Meetings held in Rathkeale, Loghill and County Hall, Dooradoyle.

NEW RATHKEALE AREA HEADQUARTERS

The Contractor for the Refurbishment of the Carnegie Library Building and construction of the New Rathkeale Electoral Area Headquarters commenced site works in late October, 2006. The projected completion date for this project will be August/September, 2007, and represents an investment of approximately €3m in Rathkeale Town.

ROADS

Substantial improvement works were undertaken during the year to the Area roads network, with expenditure in excess of €4.8m. These works included road strengthening, surface dressing, macadam overlays, roadway lining, new and replacement signage, roadway drainage, and general roads maintenance.

The following works were commenced during the year under the Rathkeale Electoral Area Development Fund Allocation :-

- Upgrading and provision of new Public Lighting at : Croagh, Askeaton, and Rathkeale Town boundary.
- Footpath replacement and improvements at Askeaton, Glin, Pallaskenry.

Macadam overlay works between Rathkeale/Askeaton (R518), Castlematrix, Clontemple Ballingarry, Corgrigg Foynes, Caherroe Glin, St. Mary's Terrace and Copsewood Road Pallaskenry, Ballyhahill Road Loghill, Flying Boat Museum Car Park, Foynes, were also completed.

Further improvement works were undertaken during the year at Killeery Pier, with grant assistance received from the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources. These improvement works included restoration of the limestone sets on the pier surround. It is anticipated that with further Department grant assistance during 2007, this project will be completed with the installation of kerbed "green areas" adjacent to the swimming points, and the laying of an asphalt "blacktop" surface, and ramping to the remaining section of the pier.

HOUSING

The following is a breakdown of Houses completed /purchased/ commenced during the year in the Rathkeale Area:

New Houses completed	Askeaton – William Street	10.
	Ballyhahill - Turnkey	5.
	Croom – Towerfield	4.
	Rathkeale – Fair View	20.
	Pallaskenry Rathkeale	1 Rural Cottage 1 Rural Cottage
Houses Purchased	Askeaton	3
New Houses Commenced/ under Construction	Ballingarry – The Gardens	4

A sum of €230,000 was allocated for the maintenance of, and improvements to the Rathkeale Area's existing housing stock, and Residential Caravan site. Central Heating was provided to 70 local authority dwellings in the Rathkeale Housing Area during the year, under the Council's Central Heating Programme.

WATER SERVICES

A number of Small Capital Schemes were completed during the year and include the following:

- Water Main replacement at Pallaskenry Village, Ringmoylan - Pallaskenry, Bog Road - Kildimo, Fanningstown - Crecora.
- Provision of New Water Source/borehole at Banogue – Phase 2.
- Installation of telemetry systems in Croom, Ballingarry and Knockfierna, Carrigeen, Loghill, Kilmacat, Ballyhahill, Fedamore and Shanagolden.

Other work - operation and maintenance of water schemes in the Rathkeale area, including the County's largest Water Supply Scheme at Aughinish, that operates to ISO standard.

Sewerage Scheme

Ongoing maintenance and operation of the Sewerage Treatment Plants servicing the Area.

Burial Ground Improvement Works

Improvement works were carried out at St. Joseph's Burial Ground, Rathkeale, that included drainage to the car parking/entrance areas, hedgecutting, general maintenance and edging of the walkways.

Improvement/surfacing works to the Kilcornan Burial Ground/Car Parking area.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Recycling facilities are located in the following towns and villages:

- Askeaton – Arena Car Park
- Ballingarry
- Foynes
- Loughill
- Pallaskenry – Copsewood College
- Rathkeale – New Line
- Shanagolden

All these facilities provide for the re-cycling of glass, bottles and jars, food and drink cans. Additionally, some of these centres provide facilities for plastic bottles, newspapers and magazines.

LIFEGUARD SERVICE

Temporary Lifeguards and pier attendant were employed at both Glin and Kiltairy Piers during the 2006 summer bathing period.

PLANNING

Planning Clinic services, by appointment, operate from the Rathkeale Office on the first Tuesday of each month, between 10.00.a.m. and 12.00. noon. This service continues to be a

valuable and much availed of local service for members of the public.



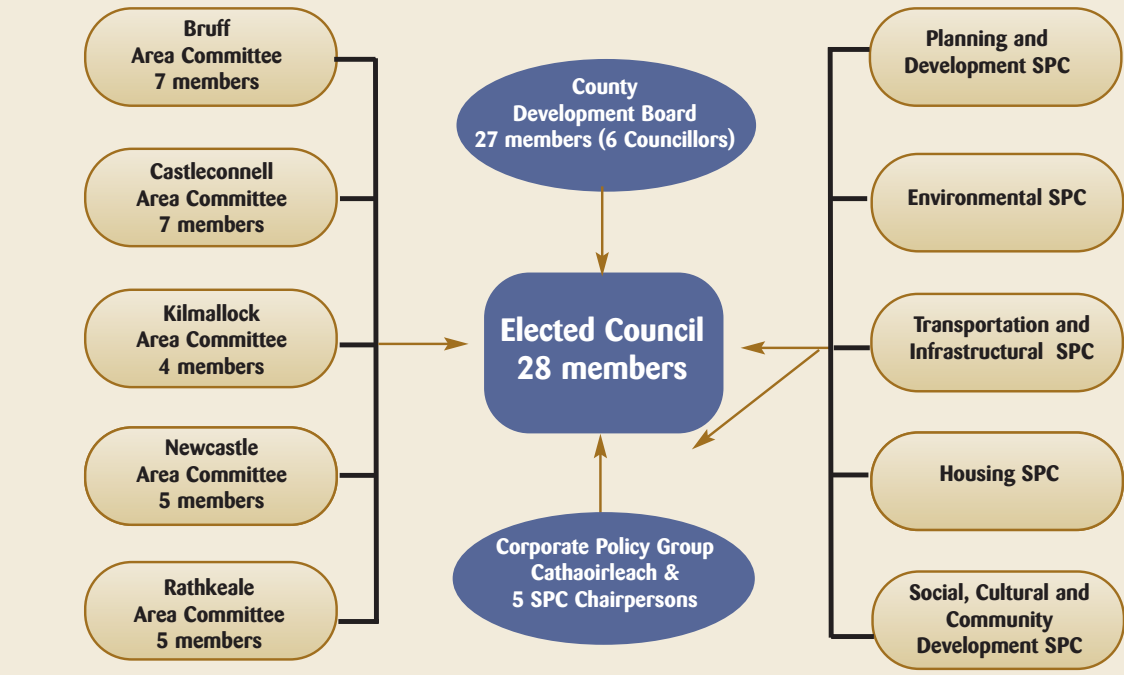
Kiltairy Pier, Loughill – Completion of pavement Rehabilitation Works



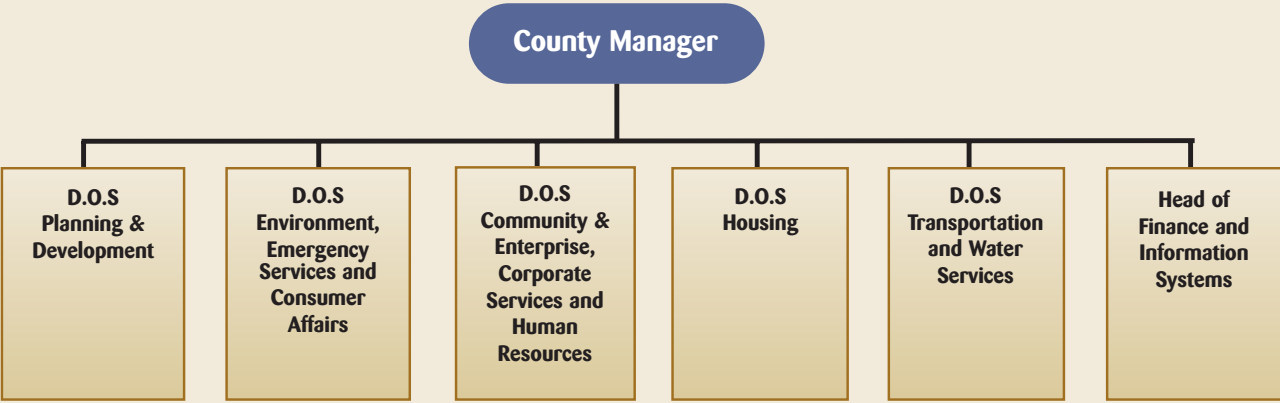
Construction Works underway at the new Rathkeale Area Headquarters and Library

Limerick County Council Structure and Organisational Chart

Elected Structure



Executive Structure



D.O.S (Director of Services)

CONFERENCES ATTENDED 2006

The Council was represented at the following Conferences in 2006

UCC Business Conference
 Merriman Winter School
 Media Skills Seminar for Councillors
 Northern Tourism Conference
 The Local Government Planning Service
 Association of Municipal Authorities
 Enterprise Kiltullagh Ltd. National Conference
 Mid West Regional Authority Conference
 17th Colmcille Winter School
 Cork Co. Council's Annual Mayors Conference
 A Journey of Remembering Pathfinding Conference
 The Councillor and Community Leadership Seminar
 Association of Co. & City Councils Annual Conference
 Safe Driving Conference
 Carlow Tourism Annual Conference
 Conference on Opinion Polls
 LAMA Local Government-Delivering the Future
 Now Conference
 Waste Management Conference
 Rattoo Environmental Conference
 Drogheda Cross Border Focus
 "The Battle of the Boyne-Its Legacy"
 Training Seminar for Councillors
 Housing Services Local Government
 A New Approach to Ageing & Ageism
 Irish Rural Link Urban Chaos or Rural Chaos Conference
 CEC The Potential for Local & Regional Tourism Conference
 Westport Experience Annual Conference
 3 Day Annual Partnership Conference
 Ennis General Hospital Committee Who Owns
 Irish Healthcare Conference
 Training Seminar for Councillors The Post BLG Councillor
 Michael Davitt Museum Conference
 Architecture in the Public Service
 CEC North/South Seminar
 12th Byrne Perry Summer School
 From The Boyne to Somme
 Planning Seminar for Councillors
 The MacGill Summer School
 William Carleton Summer School

19th January, Cork
 27th to 29th January, Westport, Co Mayo
 28th January, Clarinbridge, Co Galway
 3rd & 4th February, Dunadry, Co Antrim
 3rd & 4th February, Clonea, Waterford.
 10th & 11th February, Donegal
 16th February, Ballinlough, Roscommon
 16th & 17th February, Ennis, Co Clare
 24th to 26th February, Letterkenny
 2nd March, Macroom, Co Cork
 3rd March, Dublin
 3rd & 4th March, Clonmel, Co Tipperary
 9th to 11th March, Dundalk
 22nd to 24th March, Ennis
 23rd & 24th March, Carlow
 31st March to 1st April, Rosslare

 20th & 21st April, Kilkenny
 24th to 26th April, Donegal
 26th to 30th April, Ballybunion

 27th to 29th April, Drogheda

 28th to 29th April, Rooskey, Co. Leitrim
 4th to 6th May, Dublin
 11th & 12th May, Tullamore, Co Offaly
 12th May, Letterkenny
 18th & 19th May, Westport
 18th to 20th May, Mallow

 18th to 20th May, Ennis
 26th & 27th May, Castlebellingham, Louth
 2nd to 4th June, Foxford, Co Mayo
 8th & 9th June, Westport, Co Mayo
 23rd June, Ferrycarrig Bridge, Wexford
 23rd to 25th June, Gorey
 1st July, Drogheda
 6th to 8th July, Baltimore, Cork.
 16th to 21st July, Glenties, Co Donegal
 7th to 11th August, Clogher

Parnell Summer School
 General Humbert Michael Davitt Summer School
 Merriman Summer School
 Kilmallock Walled Town Conference
 Local Government and the Arts Seminar
 Sport & Leisure Development Conference
 Tionól na Fhómhair
 AMAI Annual Conference
 Annual Benedict Kiely Literary Weekend
 The Local Government Environment Service
 Training Seminar
 Building on the Past, Designing for the Future
 I.A.S 11th Annual Conference Women's Health and Suicide
 Greystones Town Council La Touche Legacy Seminar
 All Ireland Nuclear Free Seminar
 Association of Irish Regions Sustainable
 Energy Conference
 Transport 21- Making it a Reality
 Confederation of European Councillors Annual Conference
 Spike Island, Hidden History Conference
 River Basin Management Conference
 Neil T. Blarney Autumn School
 Annual Douglas Hyde Conference

 Training Seminar for Councillors -The Role of Local Government
 in Combating Anti-Social Behaviour Seminar
 Housing Matters Annual Conference
 Corepoint/Coastnet Conference
 LAMA - Winter Seminar
 Territorial Competitiveness of North Cork and South
 East Limerick Seminar
 E-Towns National Conference
 Irish Leader Annual Conference
 Clare Tourism 18th National Conference
 Newmarket Community Development Association
 Agrivision 2015 Action Plan
 CEC North/South Winter Seminar
 Training Seminar for Councillors The Local
 Government in Budget 2007

13th to 18th August, Rathdrum, Wicklow
 17th to 20th August, Kilcummin, Co Mayo
 19th to 26th August, Lisdoonvarna, Clare
 24th & 25th August, Kilmallock
 25th & 26th August, Letterkenny, Donegal
 31st August & 1st September, Kilkee
 8th to 10th September, Dungarvan
 13th to 16th September, Cavan
 15th to 17th September, Omagh,

28th to 30th September, Youghal, Cork
 29th September, Knock
 29th & 30th September, Ennis, Co Clare
 29th September to 1st October, Greystones
 30th September, Drogheda

6th October, Sligo
 12th October, Dublin
 12th & 13th October, Derry
 12th & 13th October, Cobh, Co Cork
 12th & 13th October, France
 13th & 14th October, Letterkenny
 20th to 22nd October, Ballaghaderreen
 Co. Roscommon.

27th & 28th October, Carrick-on-Suir
 7th & 8th November, Belfast
 8th November, Galway
 10th & 11th November, Arklow, Wicklow

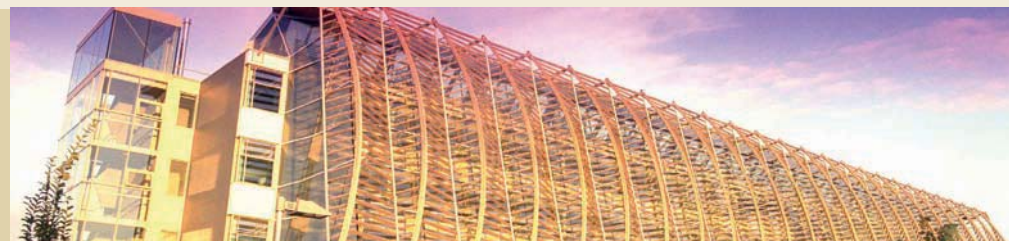
10th November, Charleville
 14th & 15th November, Milltown Malbay
 24th & 25th November, Dublin
 24th & 25th November, Ennistymon

30th November to 2nd December, Mallow
 8th December, Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh

9th December, Bunclody, Co Wexford

Contact Details for Limerick County Council

Address County Hall, Dooradoyle, Co. Limerick.
Opening Hours 9.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.
Tel. 061 – 496000
Fax. 061 – 496001
Website www.lcc.ie
E-mail secretar@limerickcoco.ie



Section	Telephone	Fax
Accounts Payable	061 496266	061 496013
Arts Office	061 496498	061 496009
Building Control	061 496387	061 496014
Civil Defence HQ	061 496431	061 496014
Community & Enterprise	061 496454	061 496011
Environment	061 496264	061 496008
Fire HQ	061 496270	061 496007
General Administration/ Higher Ed. Grants	061 496291	061 496001
Housing	061 496293	061 496012
Housing Loans	061 496466	061 496001
Human Resources	061 496331	061 496004
Rates/Water Charges	061 496360	061 496001
Roads	061 496233	061 496005
Waste Management	061 496596	061 440011
Water Services	061 496326	061 496010
Planning	061 496347	061 496006
Opening hours 9.30 a.m. – 3.30p.m.		
Cash Office		
Opening hours 9.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.		
Motor Taxation	061 316444	061 318483
Lower Mallow St., Limerick. Opening hours 9.30 a.m. – 3.30 p.m		
Library HQ		
58 O'Connell St., Limerick	061 496526	061 318570
Opening hours 9.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m 2.00 p.m. – 4.30 p.m		

Area Offices	Telephone	Fax	Opening Hours
Newcastle West	069 – 62100	069 62861	9.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.
Motor Taxation Newcastle West	069 – 62100	069 62861	9.30 a.m. – 3.30 p.m.
Rathkeale	069 – 64129	069 63188	9.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.
Kilmallock	063 – 98019	063 98599	9.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.
Croom	061 – 397212	061 397438	9.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.
Annacotty	061 – 331544	061 336738	9.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.
Mid-West National Road Design Office Mungret	061 – 227382	061 226259	9.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.
Telephone			
Gortadroma Landfill Site	069 82339		
Mungret Civic Amenity Centre	061 305720		
Newcastle West Recycling Centre	069 78610		
Kilmallock Recycling Centre	063 98836		
Dog Warden Service	061 301604		

Principal Officers of Limerick County Council as at December 2006

County Manager	Ned Gleeson
Director of Environment, Emergency Services & Consumer Affairs	Gerry Behan
Director of Transportation & Water Services	Paul Crowe
Director of Community & Enterprise, Corporate Services & Human Resources	Anne Haugh
Director of Planning & Development	Tom Enright
Director of Housing	Jimmy Feane
Head of Finance and Information Systems	Oliver Killeen
County Secretary/SEO Corporate Services	Eugene Griffin
County Librarian	Damien Brady
Senior Engineer, Environment, Emergency Services & Consumer Affairs	Tom Tarpey
Senior Engineer, Transportation & Infrastructure	Pat O'Neill
Senior Engineer, Regional Road Design Office	Tim Fitzgerald
Senior Engineer, Water Services	Donal Brennan
Senior Engineer, Housing	Gerard Naughton
Senior Executive Officer, Housing	Mary Fogarty

Senior Executive Officer, Planning & Development	Christy O'Connor
Senior Executive Officer, Business Re-Engineering	Noreen Fahey
Senior Executive Officer, Human Resources	Pat Fitzgerald
Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Projects	Michael Griffin
Head of Information Systems	Jim Dore
Senior Planner	Gerry Sheeran
Chief Fire Officer	Carmel Kirby
Veterinary Inspector	John McCarthy
Arts Officer	Joan MacKernan
Environmental Awareness Officer	Pauline McDonagh
Chief Technician	Michael O'Leary
Freedom of Information Officer	Eugene Griffin
Partnership Facilitator	Pat Mulcahy
Civil Defence Officer	Jos Kirby
Staff Support Officer/Equality Officer	Caroline O'Kane

In 2006 d'imigh ar gcara dílis agus ár gcomhghleacaí paiteanta, Pat O'Connor, Bainisteoir Cúnta Contae ar shlí na fírinne. Chinn Pat dul ar luathscor tar éis dó 44 blian de scothsheirbhís a thabhairt sa rialtas áitiúil ach ní raibh sé ach an t-aon lá amháin ar scor nuair a cailleadh go tragóideach é

Bhí Pat eisceachtúil sa mhéid is gur le Comhairle Chontae Luimnigh a chaith sé a chuid seirbhíse ar fad. D'éirigh sé tríd na ranganna le bheith ina Rúnaí Contae, post a bhí aige ar feadh 16 bliana. In 1998, ceapadh ina Bhainisteoir Cúnta Contae é, agus d'fhan sé sa phost sin nó gur éirigh sé as in Aibreán 2006. Is mó uair i gcaitheamh na tréimhse sin a ghlac sé ról an Leasbhainisteora Contae. Chuimsigh a chuid freagrachtaí Tithíocht chomh maith agus faoina threoir sin d'fhorbair Rannóg na Tithíochta ar bhealach a ceapadh le freastal ar Riachtanais Athracha Tithíochta phobail Chontae Luimnigh. Bhí a thiomantas agus a dhíograis soiléir i ngach gné dá chuid oibre agus sa bhfíric go raibh Contae Luimnigh ina lóchrann teoraithe maidir le Tithíocht Dheonach ina bhfianaise air seo

Bhí ardmheas ag Baill uile na Comhairle ar Pat agus d'aithin siad a chumas dochreidte ar ainilís a dhéanamh ar fhadhb, na fochais ann a bhrath agus teacht ar réiteach oiriúnach.

Ar feadh na mblianta fada, rinne Pat léachtóireacht ar Riarachán Poiblí mar chuid de Dhiplóma UCC san Eolaíocht Shóisialta. Bhí galf ar a thoil aige ach bhí suim aige i ngach aon chineál spóirt. Duine uasal cruthanta ba ea Pat agus bhí sé caoin cneasta lách ó dhúchas. Is mór an méala dá chlann a bhás agus braitheann a chairde agus a chomhghleacaithe i gComhairle Chontae Luimnigh uathu go géar é



The Late Pat O'Connor,
Assistant County Manager

The year 2006 saw the passing of our dear friend and esteemed colleague, Pat O'Connor, Assistant County Manager. Pat took the decision to retire early, having completed 44 years of sterling local government service but was only one day into his retirement when he tragically passed away.

Pat was unique in that his entire service was with Limerick County Council. He advanced through the ranks to County Secretary a position he held for 16 years. In 1998, he was appointed Assistant County Manager, and served in that capacity until his retirement in April 2006. Pat took on the role of Deputy County Manager on many occasions during that period. His responsibilities also included Housing and under his guidance the Housing Section developed into a modern Housing Service designed to meet the changing Housing Needs of the people of County Limerick. His commitment and dedication was evident in every aspect of his work and the fact that Limerick county became a flagship county in terms of Voluntary Housing was testimony to this.

Pat was universally respected by the Members of the Council and they recognised his incredible ability to analyse a problem, see hidden pitfalls and come up with a suitable solution.

For many years, Pat lectured in Public Administration as part of the UCC Diploma in Social Science. He was an accomplished golfer but also had a keen interest in all sports. Pat was a thorough gentleman with a kind and caring nature. His loss is deeply felt by his family and he is sadly missed by his friends and colleagues in Limerick County Council.