



Comhairle Chontae Luimnigh  
Limerick County Council

# ***Annual Report 2011***





# 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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# Introduction

## Limerick County Council Annual Report 2011

Introduction by the Cathaoirleach and County Manager



**Mary Harty**  
Cathaoirleach



**Ned Gleeson**  
County Manager

**W**e are happy to introduce the Annual Report of Limerick County Council for the calendar year 2011.

The Annual Report provides an opportunity to showcase the services provided by Limerick County Council during 2011, as well as some of the new and innovative actions taken across a wide range of activities.

Despite operating in a difficult environment with reduced resources, both financial and human, the Council has been proactive in delivering services to support the ongoing development of County Limerick.

The Council successfully managed to deliver a number of significant and important achievements in the areas of transport, water services, and community and enterprise. This was made possible through the hard work and dedication of Elected Members, the Executive and Staff of Limerick County Council

The Council has always taken an active role in encouraging and promoting sustainable development for Limerick and the wider Mid-West Region, and this was evidenced once again through our work with other agencies interested in the future growth of County Limerick.

Limerick County Council renewed its efforts to assist and facilitate enterprises in contributing to the local economy. The Business Support Unit (BSU) at Limerick County Council established Business Support Clinics aimed at assisting new and existing businesses locally. Elsewhere, the Broadford Community Enterprise Centre, which was supported by the Council, was completed.

The investment in water and wastewater infrastructure continued with further improvements being delivered in the area of drinking water quality. Limerick County Council staff, both indoor and outdoor, also worked tirelessly to restore water supplies following the severe weather conditions of early January 2011.

In the area of transport and infrastructure, the Council completed the M7/N24 Ballysimon Junction Improvement Scheme, continued development and upgrading works to the Great Southern Trail walking and cycling route, and played a central role in the public consultation process for the development of the Limerick to Nenagh Cycle Route.

The Council produced an 'Energy Management Code of Practice', which has delivered savings of approximately €90,000 through the implementation of numerous energy efficient measures at Limerick County Hall. Also in 2011, the Council agreed new Waste Presentation Bye Laws which require all householders and businesses to have a refuse collection service in place with an authorised Waste Collector.

The Council continued its delivery of a wide spectrum of services in communities throughout County Limerick. Among the initiatives supported were the Lifesaver Project, National Recreation Week, Limerick County Comhairle na nÓg, Limerick in Bloom, and Pride of Place.

The Council, through the County Limerick Local Sports Partnership (LSP) and the Limerick County Development Board, continued to support the County's many sporting and community organisations.

The 'Gerard McDonnell Contribution to Sport Award' scheme took place again, the Get BACK Cycling Challenge was launched, the inaugural Schools Splash and Dash event took place at the University of Limerick, and a new initiative promoting participation among the unemployed in local sporting facilities in Limerick City and County was rolled out.

Limerick County Council, through the Limerick Integration Working Group, participated in the continued roll-out of the Limerick City and County Integration Plan 2010-12, which is being implemented in conjunction with Interagency Initiatives for Travellers and Regeneration Plans to ensure coherence across all integration initiatives.

In the area of heritage, Limerick County Council, through a grant from the Irish Walled Towns Network, completed its important conservation work on one of Ireland's most historic town walls in Kilmallock.

The continued partnership between management, staff and elected representatives, along with our commitment to working on behalf of our customers and with a wide variety of stakeholders, continues to ensure that Limerick County Council meets the challenges and opportunities presented to it.





# Members

## of Limerick County Council



### Castleconnell Electoral Area



**John Egan**  
Abington, Murroe,  
Co. Limerick. (FG)

### Adare Electoral Area



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

### Newcastle Electoral Area



**Michael Collins**  
Ballinvalig,  
Newcastle West,  
Co. Limerick. (FF)



**Francis Foley**  
2 Foxfield, Elliswood,  
Killarney Road, Abbeyfeale,  
Co. Limerick. (FF)

### Kilmallock Electoral Area



**Mike Donegan**  
21 Millmount,  
Kilmallock,  
Co. Limerick. (FF)



**Mike Houlihan**  
Bresheen,  
Kilmallock,  
Co. Limerick. (FG)

### Rathkeale Electoral Area



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



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



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



**James Collins**  
Collins Bar,  
Dooradoyle,  
Co. Limerick. (FF)



**Michael Collins**  
Ballinvalig,  
Newcastle West,  
Co. Limerick. (FF)



**Francis Foley**  
2 Foxfield, Elliswood,  
Killarney Road, Abbeyfeale,  
Co. Limerick. (FF)



**Mike Donegan**  
21 Millmount,  
Kilmallock,  
Co. Limerick. (FF)



**Mike Houlihan**  
Bresheen,  
Kilmallock,  
Co. Limerick. (FG)



**Mary Harty**

Cathaoirleach  
2011-2012



**Damien Riedy**

Leas -  
Chathaoirleach  
2011-2012



**Stephen Keary**  
Clogh, Croagh,  
Co. Limerick. (FG)



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



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



**Michael Sheahan**  
'Sona Villa', Old  
Schoolhouse Road,  
Monaleen, Co. Limerick. (FG)



**Patrick C. Fitzgerald**  
Anhid, Croom,  
Co. Limerick. (IND)



**Leonard Enright**  
Ballynahan,  
Patrickswell,  
Co. Limerick. (FF)



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



**Damien Riedy**  
Crean,  
Newcastlewest,  
Co. Limerick. (FF)



**David Moloney**  
Castle Street,  
Kilfinane,  
Co. Limerick. (LAB)



**William O'Donnell**  
The Waterfall,  
Bruff,  
Co. Limerick. (FG)



**John Sheahan**  
Ballyguilteneane,  
Glin,  
Co. Limerick. (FG)



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



**Brigid Teefy**  
Ballybricken,  
Grange,  
Co. Limerick. (IND)



**Eddie Wade**  
Cahernorry,  
Drombanna,  
Co. Limerick. (FF)



**Tomás Hannon**  
4, Dromore Rise,  
Raheen,  
Co. Limerick. (LAB)



**Leo Walsh**  
Lower Raheen,  
Ballyneety,  
Co. Limerick. (FG)



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



**Eddie Ryan**  
Castlecraigh,  
Galbally,  
Co. Limerick. (FF)

Council Members And Meetings

There are 28 members on the Council – 7 members in the Adare Electoral Area, 7 members in the Castleconnell Electoral Area, 5 members in the Kilmallock Electoral Area, 5 members in the Newcastle Electoral Area and 4 members in the Rathkeale 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 19 occasions (excluding committee meetings).

Corporate Policy Group

The Corporate Policy Group(CPG) 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 Mary Harty, Cathaoirleach
- Councillor Liam Galvin, Chairperson of the Planning & Development SPC
- Councillor Mary Jackman, Chairperson of the Environmental SPC
- Councillor Tomás Hannon, Chairperson of the Housing SPC
- Councillor Kevin Sheahan, Chairperson of the Social, Cultural and Community Development SPC
- Councillor Mike Houlihan, Chairperson of the Transportation and Infrastructural SPC

The CPG links the work of the different SPCs, acts as a type of cabinet and provides a forum where policy positions can be agreed for submission to the full Council which retains the decision making authority. The CPG also monitors the performance of the local authority and plays a key role in preparing the budget. The CPG met on 7 occasions.

Committees of the Council  
Strategic Policy Committees

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

Electoral Area Committees

Title	No. of Members	No. of Meetings
Adare Area	7	9
Castleconnell Area	7	9
Kilmallock Area	5	11
Newcastle Area	5	11
Rathkeale Area	4	17

Other Committees

Title	No. of Members	No. of Meetings
Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee	12	3
Rural Water Committee	9	2
Audit Committee	5	3
Joint Policing Committee	29	4

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 ultimately rest with the full Council.

Planning & Development SPC

Chairperson	Councillor Liam Galvin
Members	Councillor Stephen Keary Councillor Mary Jackman Councillor Mary Harty Councillor Jerome Scanlan Councillor John Sheahan Councillor Damien Riedy Councillor Patrick C. Fitzgerald Councillor Michael Collins Councillor Eddie Wade Councillor Noel Gleeson Councillor Kevin Sheahan

Sectoral Representatives

Agriculture/Farming:	Mr. Gerald Quain
Development/Construction & Business/Commercial:	Mr. Tony O'Shea
Environment:	Patti O'Neill
Community & Voluntary, including Conservation, Culture and Disadvantaged:	Ms. Ann Gill Mr.Charles Richardson Mr. Seamus Hunt

Five meetings of the Planning & Development Strategic Policy Committees (SPC) took place in 2011. These included two joint meetings with the Housing and the Transportation & Infrastructure SPCs.

Issues discussed included the following:

- Joint Limerick City / County / Clare Local Authorities Housing Strategy
- Variation to County Development Plan to include Core Strategy
- The review of the Development Contribution Scheme
- Substandard Roads, Planning Criteria & the Planning Application Process
- Signage Initiative
- Mid West-Area Strategic Plan (MWASP)

- Pilot Scheme of Assistance for Maintenance of Open Spaces
- Flood Risk Assessment.

Environmental SPC

Chairperson	Councillor Mary Jackmam
Members	Councillor Leo Walsh Councillor Richard Butler Councillor Mary Harty Councillor Stephen Keary Councillor John Egan Councillor David Moloney Councillor James Collins Councillor Michael Collins Councillor Mike Donegan

Sectoral Representatives

Agriculture/Farming:	Mr. Eddie Scanlon
Development/Construction & Business/Commercial:	Mr. Liam Garvey
Environment:	Mr. Patsy Peril
Community & Voluntary/ including Conservation, Culture and Disadvantaged:	Ms. Marie Wright Mr. Mick McGrath

The Environment & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee discusses policy making in relation to Waste Management, Recycling Initiatives, Environmental Awareness, Water Pollution, Litter Control, Horticulture, Health and Safety, Building Control, Veterinary Functions, Fire and Emergency Services and the Shannon River Basin project.

Four meetings of the Environment & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee were held in 2011.

Issues discussed included the following:

- The 4th Annual Report of the Limerick/Clare/Kerry Replacement Waste Management Plan 2006-2011
- Update on the Limerick Clare Energy Agency
- Poster & Technological Campaign Displays for Election posters
- The Draft Litter Management Plan 2011-2014 "Vision for the Future"
- The Report on Litter Activities for 2010
- A "Voluntary Ban" on election posters in the town of Newcastle West
- The "Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme"
- An "Evaluation and Revision of the Regional Waste Management Plan"
- Bye-Laws For The Presentation, Storage And Segregation Of Household And Commercial Waste- Public Consultation report.
- The Site Assessment System for one-off housing
- Options available to householders in terms of payment for refuse collection services
- "Scrap Saturday Collections"

Housing SPC

Chairperson	Councillor Tomás Hannon
Members	Councillor Rose Brennan Councillor Richard Butler Councillor William O'Donnell Councillor Mike Houlihan Councillor David Naughton Councillor John Sheahan Councillor Brigid Teefy Councillor Eddie Wade Councillor James Collins Councillor Francis Foley Councillor Eddie Ryan

Sectoral Representatives

Development/Construction & Business/Commercial:	Mr. Liam McArdle
Trade Union:	Mr. Mike McNamara
Community & Voluntary, including Conservation, Culture and Disadvantaged:	Ms. Alice McAuliffe Mr. Jeremiah O'Connor Ms. Ann Gill Mr. Seamus Hunt

The Housing SPC met on 4 occasions.  
Issues discussed included the following:

- Assessment of Eligibility and Need for Social Housing Supports
- Draft Allocation Scheme
- 2011 Fixed Term Tenant Purchase Scheme for long standing tenants
- Amendment to Housing Assessment Regulations
- Housing Allocation Scheme – update regarding Choice Based Lettings

Joint Meeting with Planning S.P.C.:

Draft Joint Local Authorities Housing Strategy.

Social, Cultural and Community Development SPC

Chairperson	Councillor Kevin Sheahan
Members	Councillor Michael Sheahan Councillor Leo Walsh Councillor William O'Donnell Councillor John Egan Councillor David Naughton Councillor David Moloney Councillor Patrick C. Fitzgerald Councillor Francis Foley Councillor Leonard Enright

Sectoral Representatives

Agriculture/Farming:	Mr. John Walsh
Development/Construction & Business/Commercial:	Mr. John Quinn
Community and Voluntary, including Conservation, Culture and Disadvantaged:	Mr. Brian Ruttle Mr. Seamus Ryan Ms. Joan Hayes



- The Social, Cultural and Community Development SPC held four meetings in 2011 in various locations around the County. [Issues discussed included the following:](#)
- Update on Actions of FAI Development Officer
  - Libraries-Presentation of Services at Kilmallock Library/Presentation of new Mobile Library Service Vehicle
  - Update on Local Sports Partnership Strategic Plan and Action Plan 2011
  - Update on Comhairle na nÓg Enhanced Programme
  - Arts Initiatives 2011
  - Kilmallock Green Town Initiative
  - Presentation by Local Development Companies on their activities
  - Proposed Bye-Laws for Parks and Playgrounds

Transportation and Infrastructural SPC

Chairperson	Councillor Mike Houlihan
Members	Councillor Rose Brennan
	Councillor Liam Galvin
	Councillor Michael Sheahan
	Councillor Jerome Scanlan
	Councillor Damien Riedy
	Councillor Tomás Hannon
	Councillor Brigid Teefy
	Councillor Leonard Enright
	Councillor Mike Donegan
	Councillor Eddie Ryan
	Councillor Noel Gleeson

- Agriculture/Farming:**  
Mr. Aidan Gleeson
- Development/Construction & Business/Commercial:**  
Mr. Seán Murtagh
- Trade Union:**  
Mr. Mark Quinn
- Environment:**  
Mr. John Dawson
- Community & Voluntary, including Conservation, Culture and Disadvantaged:**  
Ms. Marian Harnett  
Mr. John Mortell

- The Council’s Transportation & Infrastructural Committee met on four occasions in 2011. [Issues discussed included the following:](#)
- Smarter Travel
  - Unauthorised Signage
  - Catchment Flood Risk Assessment Management Plan
  - Strategic Integrated Framework Plan for the Shannon Estuary
  - Mid- West Area Strategic Plan

Representation on Other Bodies

**Association of County and City Councils (formerly General Council of County Councils)**  
Councillor Brigid Teefy  
Councillor Michael Sheahan  
Councillor Jerome Scanlan

**County Limerick Vocational Education Committee**  
Councillor Eddie Wade  
Councillor Eddie Ryan  
Councillor Mary Jackman  
Councillor Rose Brennan  
Councillor Liam Galvin  
Councillor Mike Houlihan  
Councillor Michael Sheahan  
Councillor Jerome Scanlan  
Councillor David Moloney

**Mid-West Regional Authority**  
Councillor Mike Donegan  
Councillor Noel Gleeson  
Councillor John Egan  
Councillor Leo Walsh  
Councillor William O’Donnell  
Councillor Stephen Keary  
Councillor Richard Butler

**Operational Committee of Mid-West Regional Authority**  
Councillor Mary Harty  
Councillor John Egan

**Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly**  
Councillor Leo Walsh  
Councillor Stephen Keary

**Limerick Market Trustees**  
Councillor Mary Harty  
Councillor Mary Jackman  
Councillor Michael Sheahan  
Councillor Leo Walsh  
Councillor William O’Donnel  
Councillor Tomás Hannon  
Councillor John Egan  
Councillor James Collins  
Councillor Eddie Wade

**Management Committee of Limerick Market Trustees**  
Councillor Mary Jackman  
Councillor Michael Sheahan

**Shannon Foynes Port Compnay**  
Councillor David Naughton

**Library Association of Ireland**  
Councillor Michael Sheahan

**Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances:**  
Councillor Mike Houlihan

**Local Authority Members’ Association**  
Councillor Mary Jackman

**National University of Ireland, Cork – Governing Authority**  
Councillor Eddie Wade

**University of Limerick - Governing Authority**  
Councillor Mary Harty

**Advisory Committee, Graduate Medical School, University of Limerick**  
Councillor Mary Harty

**Adare Heritage Trust Ltd.**  
Councillor Mary Harty

**Limerick County Enterprise Board**  
Councillor Michael Collins  
Councillor Mary Harty  
Councillor David Naughton  
Councillor Jerome Scanlan

**West Limerick Resources Limited**  
Councillor Francis Foley *replaced Cllr. Michael Collins on 24/10/11*  
Councillor Jerome Scanlan  
Councillor Damien Riedy  
Councillor Stephen Keary

**Ballyhoura Development Limited**  
Councillor William O’Donnell  
Councillor Michael Sheahan

**RCCN (Rural Community Care Network)**  
Councillor Jerome Scanlan  
Councillor Stephen Keary

**Hunt Museums Trust**  
Councillor Mary Jackman

**Regional Health Forum West**  
Councillor Kevin Sheahan  
Councillor Rose Brennan  
Councillor Richard Butler  
Councillor Jerome Scanlan

**Special Purpose Enterprise Company**  
Councillor Mary Harty  
Councillor John Egan  
Councillor Jerome Scanlan

**Interagency Forum for Rathkeale Town**  
Councillor David Naughton  
Councillor Stephen Keary

**RAPID Action Implementation Team for Rathkeale**  
Councillor Stephen Keary

**Limerick/Ballybrophy Rail Link Partnership Group**  
Councillor Mary Jackman  
Councillor Michael Sheahan

**County Rural Water Monitoring Committee**  
Councillor Eddie Ryan  
Councillor William O’Donnell  
Councillor Mary Harty

**Audit Committee:**  
Councillor Jerome Scanlan  
Councillor David Naughton

**Joint Policing Committee:**  
Councillor Mary Harty *(ex-officio member)*  
Councillor Kevin Sheahan  
Councillor James Collins  
Councillor Francis Foley  
Councillor Mike Donegan  
Councillor Patrick C. Fitzgerald  
Councillor Leo Walsh  
Councillor Mary Jackman  
Councillor Jerome Scanlan  
Councillor Liam Galvin  
Councillor John Sheahan  
Councillor Richard Butler  
Councillor Stephen Keary  
Councillor Damien Riedy  
Councillor Tomás Hannon

**Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee**  
Councillor Mary Jackman  
Councillor David Naughton  
Councillor Tomás Hannon  
Councillor Francis Foley  
Councillor Patrick C. Fitzgerald

**County Development Board**  
Councillor Mary Harty  
Councillor Liam Galvin  
Councillor Mary Jackman  
Councillor Tomás Hannon  
Councillor Kevin Sheahan  
Councillor Mike Houlihan

**Social Inclusion Measures Group of County Development Board**  
Councillor Mary Jackman

# Cathaoirleach's Reception



At a Cathaoirleach's Reception held in County Hall on 26th May, 2011, Cllr. Richard Butler, Cathaoirleach of Limerick County Council, presented a scroll on behalf of Limerick County Council to Nicholas Cuddihy, Principal of Crescent College Comprehensive S.J., in recognition of the school's recent sporting achievements. Also in the picture are Eimear McManus, Senior A Hockey Captain, Tara Lyons and Gearóid Lyons, Junior A Rugby Captain.





# Celebrating Community Events 2011



Image Top Right:

Majella Foley-Friel, Training and Development Coordinator, Adapt Services, presents some Adapt Services booklets to Cllr. Damien Riedy, Leas Chathaoirleach at the closure of the "16 Days of Action Opposing Violence Against Women 2011 Campaign" at County Hall.

Image Centre:

Members of the Bavarian Dance Group performing in the Council Chamber in August.

## Celebrating Communities

Local Communities come together celebrating events, bringing life to Limerick

Every year local Limerick communities come together to organise and celebrate events, making Limerick a stronger community.

Limerick County Council acknowledge the effort and work of the communities involved. Featured are some events ran over the past year.





1. The Local Sports Partnership's Irish Sports Council Family Sports Day in Crescent College Comprehensive.

2. County Limerick LSP's Older Adult Inter County Fest in UL playing Box Hockey.

3. Cllr. Mary Harty, Cathaoirleach, presents a gift to members of the Bavarian Dance Group.

4. Members of The Bavarian Dance Group with Cllr. Mary Harty, Cathaoirleach and Eugene Griffin, County Secretary.

5. Cllr. Mary Harty, Cathaoirleach in the presence of Miriam Duffy, Executive Director, Limerick Rape Crisis Centre, Steve Cowney, Volunteer Worker, Limerick Rape Crisis Centre, Eddie Lynch, Addiction Councillor, Verena Tarpey, Fundraising Director, Limerick Rape Crisis Centre, Eugene Griffin, County Secretary, Limerick County Council and Aileen Rovine, Volunteer Worker Limerick Rape Crisis Centre at the launch of the S.P.A.C.E. Programme at County Hall in November.

6. Cllr. Mary Harty, Cathaoirleach, at the launch of the S.P.A.C.E. Programme in the presence of Verena Tarpey, Fundraising Director and Miriam Duffy, Executive Director with Limerick Rape Crisis Centre.

7. Cllr. Mary Harty, Cathaoirleach, officially launches the Limerick Rape Crisis Centre's S.P.A.C.E. Programme at the County Hall, in the presence of Cllr. Tomás Hannon, Cllr. Mary Jackman, Verena Tarpey, Fundraising Director and Miriam Duffy, Executive Director with Limerick Rape Crisis Centre, Cllr Brigid Teehy and Cllr Leo Walsh.





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8. President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins and his wife, Sabina, are seen here at Cappamore Show, with members of the Litter Team.

9. Clean Up At Radharc Na Cille Estate, Kilmallock, July 2011. Helen Keays and Claire O'Donoghue from the Environment Section with children from Radharc na Cille taking part in the clean up in Kilmallock.

10. Gretta Purcell, Environment Section, at the Clean Up At Radharc Na Cille Estate, Kilmallock, July 2011.

11. Members of the Litter Team at Knockainey Village Fair, Sunday 3rd July 2011.

12. The German Ambassador to Ireland, Dr. Eckhard Lubkemeier at County Hall, Dooradoyle on 7th October during his visit to Limerick. Also in the picture are Josephine Cotter-Coughlan, Director of Services, Cllr. Mary Harty, Cathaoirleach and Gerry Behan, Director of Services, Limerick County Council.





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13 Cllr. Mary Harty, Cathaoirleach of Limerick County Council, Cllr. Pat Hayes, Mayor of Clare and Josephine Cotter- Coughlan, Director of Services, Limerick County Council at the launch of Limerick Womens Mini Marathon in Septemeber.

14 Clíodhna Hartnett, South Circular Road, Rosemary Ryan, Limerick City Sports Partnership and Hannah Hartnett, South Circular Road, unveil the 2011 t-shirt at the launch of Limerick Womens Mini Marathon in Septemeber..

15 Cllr. Pat Hayes, Mayor of Clare, Alan English, Editor of the Limerick Leader, Cllr. Mary Harty, Cathaoirleach of Limerick County Council and Paddy O'Connell, President of the Limerick Athletic Club at the launch of Limerick Womens Mini Marathon in Septemeber..

16 Kevin O'Connor, Shannon Development, Alan English, Editor of the Limerick Leader, Robbie Kenneally, J.J. Kenneally Jewellers, Fergal Deegan, 95FM and Lavnia Ryan, VHI at the launch of Limerick Womens Mini Marathon in Septemeber.

17 Cllr. Damien Riedy, Leas Chathaoirleach of Limerick County Council welcomes Superintendent John Scanlan to Limerick County Council for the opening of the new Community Garda Office at County Hall on the 5th September, 2011. This office is opened every Monday from 11am-12 noon.

18 Artist, Siobhan Burke, Mullagh, Co. Clare, and Eugene Griffin, County Secretary, Limerick County Council at the closure of the " 16 Days of Action Opposing Violence Against Women 2011 Campaign" at the County Hall.

19 Cllr. Leo Walsh, Deirdre Barrett, Development Worker with Adapt Services, Eugene Griffin, County Secretary and Cllr Stephen Keary at the closure of the " 16 Days of Action Opposing Violence Against Women 2011 Campaign" at County Hall.

20 Cllr. Michael Sheahan, Cllr. Mary Jackman, Pat Burke, Castleconnell, Jess Angland, Adapt Services and Cllr. Jerome Scanlan at the closure of the " 16 Days of Action Opposing Violence Against Women 2011 Campaign" at the County Hall.



# Service Reports

Transportation & Water Services	21
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## Transportation & Water Services

**Paul Crowe**  
Director of Transportation  
and Water Services



### Roads

To provide and maintain a safe and effective transportation network for all road users, incorporating the principles of sustainable development and social inclusion.

### Major Road Schemes

**N21 Adare Bypass**  
The statutory procedures for this proposed 8km southern bypass of the town of Adare project were advertised in the Local and National press at the end of February 2010 and had a closing date for submissions to An Bord Pleanála of 26th April 2010. An Bord Pleanála convened one oral hearing for both the above project and the proposed M20 Cork to Limerick Motorway. The application for the proposed M20 Cork to Limerick Motorway has since been withdrawn from An Bord Pleanála at the direction of the Minister for Transport, Sport & Tourism.

A decision by An Bord Pleanála on the Adare Bypass Project is expected in 2012.

**M7/N24 Ballysimon Junction Improvement Scheme**  
The National Roads Authority has identified the potential modification of the existing interchange at Ballysimon to permit 2 lanes each way in and out of Limerick for N24 traffic and additional designated slips to add extra capacity to the junction.

The proposed works include for the creation of a new Roundabout at Milltown, widening the existing N24 and R527 to 4 lanes (5 over bridge) between this new roundabout and the existing roundabout at Garryglass, the construction of a new off slip from the northbound off ramp towards the city and the reconfiguration and optimisation of the traffic signal layout at the interchange.

The project has progressed through the Part 8 Statutory Procedure and public consultation process. It is envisaged that work will commence on this project in Spring 2012.





### N21 Killarney Pole to Barnagh Road Safety Scheme

This scheme is located on the N21 with the eastern end some 3km west of Newcastle West. This section of roadway has experienced a high vehicle collision rate over many years. Many of the collisions have resulted in serious injury and, in three separate instances between 2002 and 2008 alone, in fatalities.

Following consultation with the National Roads Authority, Limerick County Council has acquired all land required for the above scheme by agreement with local landowners.

The works proposed will include the horizontal and vertical realignment of the N21 together with the provision of new ghost island junctions, a climbing lane, new and widened road pavements, new local roads, road lighting, road drainage, fencing, landscaping and accommodation works where required. The construction of the proposed works will necessitate the demolition of a derelict house in the vicinity of Garryduff Cross.

The project has progressed through both the Part 8 planning process and through the Section 73 Extinguishment of Public Rights of way process. These statutory processes were advertised on 23rd July 2011 with closing dates for submissions of 23rd September 2011 & 12th September 2011 respectively.

It is envisaged that works will commence on the construction of the first phase of this project in Spring 2012.

### Specialist Safety Design Team

The development of a Specialist Safety Design Team is a new initiative by the National Roads Authority. Staff members from Limerick, Tramore and Donegal Regional Road Design office are

assigned to this team. Their role is to design road safety solutions at areas of concern throughout the country in conjunction with the parent local authority. The Mid West National Road Design Office had an allocation of sixteen schemes to design in 2011.

### External Accreditation

The Mid West National Road Design Office continues to retain both the ISO 9001:2008 standard with the NSAI and CPD accreditation with Engineers Ireland.

### Fitzgibbon Monument

The Fitzgibbon Monument was officially reinstated by the Cathaoirleach of Limerick County Council, Cllr. Mary Harty on 5th October in Rich Hill, Lisnagry.

The memorial was dismantled in 2001 as part of the construction of the Limerick Southern Ring Road Phase 1 project. The realignment of the junction at Finnegans, to facilitate the tie in of the M7 Motorway with the Limerick Southern Ring Road Phase I scheme, meant that the monument could not be reinstated in a suitable setting which respected its historical and cultural links until this time.

The new location of the memorial in Rich Hill lies within the boundary of Mountshannon Demesne and therefore the historical connection between the monument and the Mountshannon Estate is maintained. This site was chosen following extensive consultation with local residents, the Castleconnell Historical Society, local elected members and the Conservation Officer of Limerick County Council.

In her speech Cllr. Harty acknowledged the work of the staff of the Mid West National Road Design Office and the NRA in promoting the reinstatement process



## Main Road Works Programme 2011

Resurfacing works were carried out on the following National Roads in 2011 including the N21 from Cullinagh Cross to Killarney Pole, N24 at Pallasgreen and on the N69 from Tomdeely North to Coolrahnee.

Road Safety Improvements were carried out at the following locations:

- N20 at Rockhill Cross
- N20 Ballymacorrey Junction
- N24 Powers, Ballysimon
- N24 Beary's Pub Junction
- N69 at Kildimo
- N69 Ballysteen Junction
- N21 Newcastle West – Provision of 2 No. Pedestrian Crossings at the Church

### Specific Improvement Works

A grant of €1,035,000 was received for improvement works at a number of locations on Regional Roads in 2011. Among the works carried out were completion of restoration of Allaghaun River Bridge at Abbeyfeale (R524) and pavement, footpath and drainage improvements at Croom, Carrickerry and Murroe. Work also commenced on improvements to the junction at Burke's Cross, Galbally.

### Low Cost Safety Improvements

A grant of €270,000 was received for Low Cost Safety Improvements at five locations in the County. Works to improve traffic safety were carried out on R518 near Askeaton and other locations including Glin, Hospital and Shantraud. A new roundabout was provided at Fr. Russell Road to improve safety at a busy junction and improve traffic and pedestrian movements.

### Surface Dressing & Reconstruction

The Council provided Surface Dressing on 22.5 km of Regional Roads and 112km of Local Roads in 2011. In addition re-construction works were carried out on 21km of Regional Roads and 76km of Local Roads in the same period.

### Regional Road Signposting

A grant of €100,000 was received in 2011 towards the programme to improve Signage on Regional Roads in the County. A number of contracts were issued for the following routes which will be completed in 2012.

- R511 Limerick City to Meanus/Fedamore
- R520 Lees Cross to Newcastle West
- R518 Askeaton to Kilmallock.

### Winter Maintenance

The start of 2011 was a busy period for Council staff involved in pre-treating and treating all National routes to keep them free of ice during the severe freezing weather at that time. While staff were again on duty prior to the Christmas period in 2011 to deal with a repeat of any such severe weather, fortunately there was no sustained period of freezing weather to contend with over the festive season as in the previous two years.



Smarter/Sustainable Travel

A series of infrastructural works were carried out under the headings of Smarter Travel and Sustainable Travel designed to encourage people to move away from the use of private cars to more sustainable forms of transport such as public transport, bicycles or walking. The works were carried out under the following headings:

Jobs Initiative Smarter Travel Funding Package – Round 3

Funding of €90,000 was received under the “Jobs Initiative Smarter Travel Funding Package” to provide pedestrian crossings and improvements to footpaths, provision of Bus Bays & Shelters, improvements to cycle lanes and cycle parking units at a number of locations throughout the County.

Limerick Nenagh Cycle Route

Funding of €300,000 was made available to provide cycling lanes on the R445 from Limerick to Nenagh. This work was carried out in conjunction with North Tipperary Co. Co. which received an additional €300,000 to fund the works in that Authority’s area.

Dublin Road Green Route

Work on the R445 Dublin Road Green Route Phase II was substantially completed in 2011. The works comprised of provision of pedestrian, cycle and bus lanes as well as traffic calming measures and new signalised control at the Cappamore Road Junction.

Great Southern Trail

A sum of €306,000 was provided to carry out improvements to the Great Southern trail between Rathkeale and Barnagh.

Road Safety

Lifesaver Project

The successful Lifesaver Project initiative which commenced in 2008, led by An Garda Síochána and supported by the Limerick Ambulance Service, the H.S.E., Limerick City & County Fire Service and the Road Safety Departments of Limerick County & City Councils is aimed at senior cycle second & third level students and has been delivered to over 8,500 students in the City and County to date.

This programme has been very well received by second level institutions in both City & County and has become part of the transition year programme. A presentation took place in University of Limerick during February followed by further presentations in the South Court Hotel Raheen Limerick during the month of November which was attended by over 1500 second level students. Students participating in the programme received poignant, focused information and advice on the dangers and consequences of road traffic collisions.

Junior School Warden Scheme

The Junior School Wardens of Rathkeale & Ballylanders primary schools continued to provide safe crossing facilities for their classmates during 2011. This scheme which has been in operation in the County since 1975 owes its success to the huge commitment from the pupils, parents, teachers and the Gardaí.

Cycling Safety Training

2011 was once again a very successful year for the Cycling Safety & Skills programme with over 720 pupils from twenty primary schools in the County participating in 2011. The programme which

provides children with an understanding of cycling safety theory, bicycle care and practical bicycle safety is conducted on the schools grounds and planned to work into the school timetable.

Limerick County Council is delighted to be associated with this initiative which is subvented by Limerick County Council and also receives support funding from the Road Safety Authority.

Road Safety Together Committee

The Road Safety Together Committee which comprises representatives of the Road Safety Authority, The Garda Síochána, The National Roads Authority, Limerick Cycling, University of Limerick & Limerick County Council met on five occasions during 2011 and discussed topics focused on elements of road safety education, engineering, enforcement & evaluation.

Horticulture

In 2011, the Horticulture Section was involved in maintaining 350 acres of green area during the growing season. This was comprised of two hundred and eighty housing estates, eleven amenity areas and forty seven open spaces. It was also involved in the maintenance and upkeep of the following amenity areas:

Castletroy Park	Lough Gur
Demesne in NCW	Adare Park
Croom Riverside Park	Croom River Walk
Plassey Walk	Monaleen Park
Public Park in Bruff	Clare Glens
Public Park in Castleconnell	

The Horticulture Section also undertook improvement works at Clare Glens which involved carrying out repair works to the existing two pedestrian bridges and the re-opening of an existing entrance at the north end of the amenity. Improvement works continued in Castletroy Park with the seating and picnic areas being upgraded to enable access by disabled persons.

Other activities included;

- the distribution of 4,350 free tree saplings to community groups and schools during National Tree Week and also arranging for a special tree planting ceremony during this week by Mr. Richard Butler, Cathaoirleach, Limerick County Council at St. Gabriel’s Centre, Dooradoyle.
- the production of 250 tonnes of compost (soil conditioner) at the Council’s Green Waste Facility in Mungret. This material was distributed to the public for their own use at Limerick County Council’s three Recycling Centres.

Local Government Service Indicators 2011 - Limerick County Council

R1: Road Restoration Programme

Indicator A – Restoration Programme			
Road Category	Restoration Improvement (Kms)	Restoration Maintenance (Kms)	Category Total (Kms)
Regional	21.05	22.5	43.55
Local	76.35	112.05	188.40
Works Category Total	97.4	134.55	231.95
Restoration Programme Total (Kms)			232

Indicator B – Specific Improvement Grants

Length of Road constructed under Specific Improvement Grant 2011 (Kms)	4 Kms*
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\* Mainly involved works on structures and accommodation works in 2011

Water Services

To ensure that the people of County Limerick have access to potable water, and to benchmark public water supplies against international standards. To progress towards the improved delivery of a municipal sewerage service to the people of County Limerick, with a view to achieving compliance with relevant standards.

Limerick County Council provides drinking water supplies to approximately 40,000 households in the County and to more than 7,500 farming, business and industrial locations. In addition a total of 53 wastewater facilities are operated by the Council, serving the larger settlements in the County.

Water Interruptions Christmas 2010 - January, 2011

Arctic weather conditions during this period made it extremely difficult to maintain operation of water treatment plants and distribution systems. As a result of the response of water services staff, the Council was able to ensure that water supplies were maintained to the majority of consumers. Where water supplies were affected it was generally due to freezing of consumers service pipes. Alternative supplies, to affected areas, were provided by stand pipes attached to the mains supply or by the provision of water tankers.

Increased leakage following the thaw continued to put pressure on water supplies. Significant efforts were required from water services staff during the following weeks to return water demand levels. This was achieved by identifying leaking consumer connections, locating taps left running, and through the co-operation of consumers etc.

Notification of Water Supply Interruptions

Information and updates relating to major interruptions to water supplies are made available on the Council website www.lcc.ie. On the web site customers can sign up to a free text alert system through the “Mapalerter” link on the web homepage.

Water Quality

Information on drinking water quality for public and private water supplies is available by clicking on the ‘Drinking Water Quality’ button on the website homepage. This information includes details of –

- Each drinking water sample analysis carried out by Limerick County Council;
- The Environmental Protection Agency report on the quality of the Drinking water supplied by the Council;
- Details of Audit Reports carried out by the EPA on individual water supplies; and
- Remedial Action List improvements to specific water supplies addressing particular water quality issues.

Limerick County Council’s Water Services and Laboratory personnel, working with the Health Services Executive (HSE) stringently monitor the quality of water supplied to the public. In 2011, the Council’s Laboratory carried out 52,000 tests on water supplies. Limerick County Council is fortunate to be in a position to avail of the services of its own Laboratory, which is a chemistry and microbiology Laboratory employing ten staff. The Laboratory has a quality control system in place using the ISO 17025 as the guide standard. In addition to seeking the advice of the HSE in relation to water quality issues, the Laboratory communicates

regularly with the Environmental Protection Agency, which is the Supervisory Authority for all drinking water supplied by the Council.

In addition to its role in monitoring drinking water, the Laboratory also carries out monitoring of wastewater treatment plant discharges, river water and bathing water quality.

Water Conservation

Conservation of water has become a major focus for Limerick County Council in relation to the provision of safe, secure and efficient drinking water supplies throughout all its schemes. Through its district metering systems the water services staff are now in a position to quantify changes in unaccounted-for water across all of its supplies and to effectively target areas for concentration of leak detection efforts. The average unaccounted-for water percentage for all public supplies is in the region of 34% which compares favorably with other local authority areas. Consumers should refer to the Water Services Section of the Council website www.lcc.ie to become aware of measures which each consumer can take to assist in reducing water usage levels.

The Mains Rehabilitation Project, which commenced in late 2011, has the objective of replacing approximately 2,250m of local authority watermains in approximately 25 locations. Watermains selected for replacement have been identified as providing a poor level of service in terms of leakage, bursts, capacity, water quality, etc. These works are part-funded by a Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, via a grant of €3.1m, and will be substantially completed in 2012. The Department has also notified Limerick County Council of €6m of funding available for further Mains Rehabilitation Works. Application for this funding will be made during 2012 by the completion of a detailed assessment of the existing network of 1,966km of watermains to identify sections in most need of rehabilitation.



Major Capital Schemes

In conjunction with the DoECLG, through its National Water Services Investment Programme, (WSIP), Limerick County Council seeks to fund major water services capital projects. Of their nature these projects are costly and a significant financial burden on both stakeholders in the current economic climate. Some of the schemes being developed under the W.S.I.P. are:

Wastewater Schemes

**Mungret Sewerage Scheme:**  
Civil Works Contractor appointed in December 2011; works to commence in January, 2012.

**Kilmallock Sewerage Scheme:**  
Tendered for Design Build Operate Contract in 2011; approval to appoint a Contractor is awaited from DoECLG.

**Patrickswell Sewerage Scheme:**  
Tendered for Civil Works Contractor; approval to appoint a Contractor is awaited from DoECLG.

**Askeaton Sewerage Scheme:**  
Preliminary Report prepared and under consideration by DoECLG.

**Dromcollogher Sewerage Scheme:**  
Initially part of a 4 scheme package, [Dromcollogher, Hospital, Pallasgreen, Bruff], this project has been separated out and a Preliminary Report is in draft.

**Abbeyfeale Sewerage Scheme, Castletroy Sewerage Scheme, Newcastle West Sewerage Scheme:**  
Procurement document for design Consultants being prepared in conjunction with DoECLG.

**Small Towns and Villages Initiative**  
The Council, in partnership with the private sector, supports balanced economic development with a focus on the small population centres. Here, the Council invested €605,916, in the Bruff Wastewater Treatment Plant, installing mechanical plant, equipment and ancillary works to improve performance and service delivery.

**Waste Water Discharge Regulations, 2007**  
With 53 Waste Water Treatment facilities, the Council has made 24 applications to the Environmental Protection Agency, [E.P.A.], for Waste Water Discharge Licences and 29 applications for Certificates of Authorisation. 17 Discharge Licences were granted to the Council by the EPA together with 25 Certs of Authorisation. Discharge Licences and Certificates of Authorisation granted to the Council are on our website at [www.lcc.ie/Water Services/Plants](http://www.lcc.ie/Water Services/Plants).

**Rural Water Programme 2011**  
Limerick County Council acknowledges the often thankless tasks undertaken by volunteers involved in the Group Water Supply schemes. The Rural Water Programme Block grant for 2011 of €3.5m shows a reduction of 17% on that of the previous year-reflecting the effects of the economic climate. Funded by the DoECLG this allocation enabled investment as follows:

**Group Water Schemes Grants to Upgrade Existing Schemes:**  
7 Projects assisted, to a value of €295,774. The nature of upgrading works varies, for example, installation of chlorine dosing monitors, alarms, and source protection measures.

Ballyorgan GWS upgrade project began, where 1.9 km of pipeline will be significantly improved.

**Design Build Operate, D. B. O. Variations & D. B. O. Advance Works, Interim Works on Group Water Schemes:**  
5 Projects assisted, to a value of €340,859. Projects of this nature continue over several years and range from installation of meters, silt filters and new wells. Ballinvreena GWS and Griston GWS projects reached completion in 2011, with Glenstal GWS at an advanced stage by the end of the year.

**Takeover of Group Water Supply Schemes:**  
9 Projects assisted, to a value of €856,310.

**Small Capital Schemes:**  
33 Projects assisted, to a value of €1,527,620. 75% Funded by DoECLG and 25% invested by the Council, projects undertaken relate to improvements to small public water and sewerage schemes.

**Subsidy for Group Water Supply Schemes Assisting With Operational Costs**  
42 Group Schemes received funding of €863,301 in 2011 countywide towards the operational cost of private group water schemes.

**Private Well Grants**  
Grants totaling €93,577.31 were paid to 50 individuals under this heading - the average grant is €1,872. The purpose of the grant is to help private individuals provide good quality, potable drinking water for their homes. A maximum of €2,031 can be awarded and works which can be considered are, drilling/ commissioning a new well, rehabilitating an existing well, deepening/relining an existing bore, removing silt, constructing/improving a pump house, piping or other facilities in connection with the supply of water, provision or improvement of mechanical or electrical equipment - the provision or improvement of facilities or equipment for the treatment of water. Application form and details are accessible at: [www.lcc.ie/Water Services/Forms+Miscellaneous](http://www.lcc.ie/Water Services/Forms+Miscellaneous)

**Rural Water Monitoring Committee**  
Membership of the Rural Water Monitoring Committee consists of Chairperson, Mary Harty, M.C.C., William O'Donnell, M.C.C., and Eddie Ryan, M.C.C., Joe Gallagher, National Federation of GWS, Gerald Quaine, John Reardon, Kevin Hanley and John Hennessy together with the Rural Water Programme Liaison Officer. The committee has a role in monitoring projects developed by way of the Block Grant of the DoECLG, and works closely with Water Services Section in this regard. In 2011 the committee discussed subjects associated with the delivery of water services to this sector, for example, water quality, review of the R.W.P. and new initiatives.

Images  
1. Burial Ground Team  
2. Caherconlish Old Burial Ground, Annacotty Area  
3. Taylors Cross Burial Ground, Rathkeale Area  
4. St. Mary's, Abbeyfeale, The Square, Burial Ground

Burial Grounds:

This is certainly an area of activity where the co-operation of the Community, Members and Limerick County Council is tangible and displaying excellent results of volunteerism. Burial Ground Committees working with the Council can avail of an annual maintenance grant, (€350 in 2011). There is an application process, and a closing date for receipt of completed applications, (24/06/2011 - varies annually). 109 Groups, looking after 166 grounds, received funds this year, with a total of €51,100 awarded countywide.

Through the Burial Ground Competition, the Council seeks to encourage and recognise the energy and constancy of the large body of volunteers who give freely of their time. Grounds are assessed under two Categories, Ancient and Modern.

At the Awards night, on 15th December, 2011, Cllr. Damien Reidy, Leas Chathaoirleach thanked all participants and presented awardees with a copy of Conserving and Enhancing Wildlife in Towns and Villages, (The Heritage Council of Ireland). Those placed third and second received €200, and those placed first received €250. There was an engaging talk by the guest speaker, Dolores O'Shea, of "Ireland Reaching Out". This truly was a celebration of the valuable contribution of all volunteers. All persons involved are champions, however, the competition winners for 2011 were:

- Annacotty Area:**  
**Ancient Burial Ground Category**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Annagh Burial Ground  
2<sup>nd</sup> Towerhill Burial Ground  
1<sup>st</sup> Caherconlish (Old) Burial Ground  
**Modern Burial Ground Category**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Jewish Burial Ground, Castletroy  
2<sup>nd</sup> Kilkeedy (Ballybrown) Burial Ground  
1<sup>st</sup> Caherconlish (New) Burial Ground

- Kilmallock Area:**  
**Ancient Burial Ground Category**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Adamstown Burial Ground  
2<sup>nd</sup> Hospital Burial Ground  
1<sup>st</sup> St. John's Knockainey Burial Ground  
**Modern Burial Ground Category**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Meanus Burial Ground  
2<sup>nd</sup> Bulgaden Burial Ground  
1<sup>st</sup> Colmanswell Burial Ground

- Newcastlewest Area:**  
**Ancient Burial Ground Category**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Kileedy(Old) Burial Ground  
2<sup>nd</sup> St. Mary's, Abbeyfeale, The Square, Burial Ground  
1<sup>st</sup> Springfield Burial Ground  
**Modern Burial Ground Category**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Auglish Burial Ground  
2<sup>nd</sup> Ardagh Burial Ground  
1<sup>st</sup> St. Mary's Burial Ground, Abbeyfeale

- Rathkeale Area:**  
**Ancient Burial Ground Category**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Loughill  
2<sup>nd</sup> Beagh Burial Ground  
1<sup>st</sup> Crecora Burial Ground  
**Modern Burial Ground Category**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Taylors Cross Burial Ground, Fedamore  
2<sup>nd</sup> St. Nicholas Burial Ground, Adare  
1<sup>st</sup> Relig Mhuire, St. Mary's, Croom, Burial Ground

**Over-all Winner**  
**Ancient Burial Ground Category**  
St. John's Knockainey Burial Ground, Kilmallock.

**Modern Burial Ground Category**  
St. Mary's Burial Ground, Abbeyfeale, Newcastlewest.





# Housing

Jimmy Feane  
Director of Housing



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

A total of 3 houses were completed during 2011 as follows:

Location	No. of Houses
Ballylanders	1
Newcastle West	2

1 No. House is currently under construction in Fedamore.

7 houses were purchased and Demountable type dwellings were provided for 2 applicants.

The expenditure for the construction and purchase of houses for letting in 2011 came to €2.5m approx.

At the 31st December 2011 the Council owned 2,137 dwellings.

## Applications for Housing Assistance

Scheme	Applications	Approvals	Total Value of Approvals €
Shared Ownership Scheme	0	0	Nil
Affordable Housing (Part V)	0	0	Nil
House Purchase Annuity Loan	12	2	260,000
Tenant Purchase Annuity Loan	6	0	Nil
House Improvement Loan	1	1	38,000
Housing Adaptation Grants	115	93	1,156,955
Mobility Aids Grants	106	76	303,074
Housing Aid for Older People	303	159	43,107
Caravan Loan	1	1	5,600

### Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

This national Scheme caters for the accommodation needs of persons in receipt of long term rent supplement and who have a long term housing need. It entails the medium to long term rental of private rented accommodation and also rent payment support for eligible tenants in voluntary housing accommodation. The RAS Unit was established in late 2006 and at the 31st December 2011 a total of 443 clients had been transferred onto the RAS scheme in the County.

### Standards for Private Rented Accommodation

Local Authorities are responsible for the inspection and enforcement of minimum standards for private rented accommodation. During 2011, 244 inspections of private rented accommodation took place in County Limerick.

### Long Term Leasing Scheme

The Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, introduced a new leasing initiative for all housing authorities in 2009. It entails the long term leasing of housing units over a 5, 10 or 20 year period to accommodate qualified applicants on a local authority housing waiting list.

Limerick County Council has currently leased units at the following locations –

Location	No. of Units
Abbeyfeale	4
Bruree	4
Voluntary AHB Units, Castletroy.	5
Availability Agreements	
Castletroy & Dooradoyle	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>

### Voluntary Housing

The Limerick Housing Services Company which took over the independent running of the Voluntary Housing Forum continues to meet regularly.

In 2011 Croom Voluntary Housing Association commenced the construction of 8 units of accommodation at Towerfield, Croom. The Council continued to assist in the completion of older schemes throughout the County.

During 2011 Cluid Housing Association provided 13 units of accommodation in the Newcastle West area. Limerick County



Council also assisted the Voluntary Organisations in the County in the filling of vacancies with names provided from the approved housing list.

Circular Housing 31/2011 provides for new funding arrangements for the provision of dwellings by Approved Housing Bodies under the Social Housing Leasing initiative. Under these new arrangements AHB's will be able to apply for financial support in the form of a capital equity injection called the Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF). An amount of €15 million nationally has been set aside in 2011 to fund CALF. Limerick County Council has recently submitted two projects to the Department for consideration. If successful they will provide accommodation for 18 families.

Presently under the Capital Assistance Scheme and Capital Loan and Subsidy Scheme there are projects at various stages of completion in Abbeyfeale and Croom, Bruree, and Bruff. It is hoped that they will provide 28 units of accommodation. There are 6 other Voluntary Bodies with projects at various stages of planning.

Other statistics relating to the Housing Section's activities in 2011 are:

- There were 218 Housing Allocations made comprising newly constructed/purchased houses and casual vacancies. 35 of these allocations were either refused or withdrawn.
- Rental income for the year amounted to €5,530,678.
- The average rent paid by Council tenants was €50.28 per week.
- 9 No. Houses were sold under the 1995/2011 Tenant Purchase Scheme - Total €404,400.
- 2 No. Demountable Dwellings were provided for qualified applicants
- Energy Efficiency Works were carried out on 156 No. Local Authority rented Houses at a cost of €3m. approx.
- 6 No. Houses were refurbished at Glenma, Croom.

## Traveller Accommodation

The provision of Traveller accommodation and associated support services resulted in continued progress being made in 2011. The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee met on three occasions in 2011 and the membership consists of elected members, Travellers and officials of the Council. Ten families were provided with permanent accommodation during the year.

In the annual count of Traveller Families in November 2011 there was an estimated four hundred and seventy four Traveller families living in County Limerick. The Council is committed to providing quality accommodation and accommodation related supports to members of the Traveller Community. The need for an integrated approach in the delivery of accommodation is critical and Limerick County Council is a key player in the delivery of the Integrated Strategy for the delivery of Traveller Services. In 2011 additional supports were provided to Traveller families living in standard Local Authority Housing to assist them in participating more actively in their estates and this has proved very successful. Members of the Traveller Community are active participants in Resident Associations around the county and play a key role in the estate management programmes in some estates.

## Homeless Services

The provision of homeless services is a specialist housing provision and there is a dedicated service available for persons presenting as homeless. A Regional Homeless Framework Document for the Mid-West Region was adopted in 2010 and a Regional Homeless Forum for the region was also established. It is envisaged that this regional approach will assist in the delivery of a more co-ordinated and quality service to those presenting as homeless. Homeless services are provided in partnership with the Health Services Executive and the voluntary sector and this sharing of services has proven successful. A review of homeless services in the Mid West Region was completed in 2011 and this review will assist in the delivery of improved homeless services in the future.

In 2011, one hundred and twenty five families presented to the council as homeless and the reasons for homelessness can vary. These include, domestic violence, family disputes, eviction/ repossession, addiction problems and fire/flood damage. Supports are provided for those who present as homeless but also to those who are in danger of becoming homeless. The



preventative measures undertaken are critical in the reduction of families entering the cycle of homelessness.

Estate Management

The guiding principles that underpin estate management include supports to all residents in Local Authority estates to enjoy the full benefits of their community and that issues of anti-social and criminal behaviour are dealt with. Active resident participation is viewed as being critical in achieving this and supports are provided to assist residents establish resident associations. In addition to this, resident participation is assisted in Newcastle West and Cappamore by the provision of two Community Houses which facilitate the provision of community based services. Funding was secured from central government in 2011 for a landscape project in Riverview Estate, Kilmallock and the provision of a multi use games area in Newcastle West. Both projects were completed in 2011. In addition to this some improvement works were completed in other estates in consultation with residents.

Community actions undertaken in 2011 included residents’ days, litter pick up day, kiddies discos and family fun days. Collins Park Residents Committee in Abbeyfeale organised a 30 year Celebration night for their estate and a great night was had by all. Pre tenancy training is offered to all new tenants and this provides support and guidance for new tenants to ensure that all new tenants and existing estate residents achieve positive gains when housing is allocated. Limerick County Council is committed to providing quality services and supports to tenants and the involvement of tenants and other agencies is critical in the delivery of these services.

In 2011 the Cappamore Estates Residents Committee won the Pride of Place Competition for the best estate. This competition is an All Ireland competition and their achievement was celebrated at an awards ceremony in Gorey, County Wexford and a civic reception was held in Cappamore to honour their achievement.

Housing Service Indicators Report

H1: Housing Vacancies

A. The total number of Dwellings in Local Authority Stock	2140.75
B. The total number of Dwellings, excluding those subject to Major Refurbishment Project	2140.75
C. The overall percentage of Dwellings that are empty (excluding those subject to Major Refurbishment Projects)	8.29%
D. The percentage of empty Dwellings unavailable for letting	79.44%
E. The percentage of empty Dwellings available for letting	20.56%

H2: Average Time Taken to Re-Let Available Dwellings

The average time taken (in weeks) from the date of vacation of dwelling to the date when all necessary repairs are carried which are deemed necessary to re-let the dwelling	57.01 weeks
Comment: Limerick County Council was assigned €2,425,000 for energy efficiency and pre-letting works in 2011. This reflects the level of activity and standard reached prior to letting.	
The average time taken (in weeks) from the works (above) being completed to the date of the 1st rent debit	6.00 weeks
Comment: New assessment regulations operational from April 2011 necessitated review of qualified applicants prior to allocation. No longer sufficient to review under first area of preference only. In 2011 full garda checks on all housing applicant prior to allocation.	

H3: Housing Repairs

Number of repairs completed as a percentage of the number of valid repair requests received	80.97%
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H4: Traveller Accomodation

Total number of Traveller Families accommodated as a percentage of the targets set in the Local Traveller Accomodation Programme	76.92%
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H5: Enforcement of Standards in the Private Rented Sector

A. The total number of registered tenancies	4976
B. Number of Dwelling units inspected	225
C. Number of inspections carried out	244
D. Number of Dwellings inspected as percentage of registered tenancies (i.e. B as percentage of A)	4.52%

H6: Grants to Adapt Housing for the Needs of People with a Disability

A. Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme, including any necessary inspection(s) from the date of receipt of a valid application to the date of decision on the application.	9 weeks
B. Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a disability, including any necessary inspection(s) from the date of receipt of a valid application to the date of decision on the application.	10 weeks

H7: Pre-Tenancy Familiarisation Courses

A. Total number of new local authority tenants	106
B. Percentage of new local authority tenants who have been offered pre-tenancy familiarisation courses	92.45%



# Community & Enterprise

**Josephine Cotter Coughlan**  
Director of Community & Enterprise, Human Resources and Corporate Services



To promote the economic, social and cultural development of County Limerick and to support the implementation of the County Development Board's Strategy 'Working Together for a Better Future'

## Contribution Scheme

- Provides financial assistance towards the activities of various bodies
- Traditionally the scheme is used to support a number of special interest tourism, arts or cultural projects/facilities in our towns as well as some facilities/services in the City and Environs which have a regional significance.

Organisations involved in providing services to youth or in such areas as animal welfare, marine rescue, disability, conservation and recreation/amenity have all been previous beneficiaries from the fund.

The amount provided for operation of the Scheme in 2011 was €106,700

## Twinning

A delegation from Limerick County Council departed for Hohenlohe on 28th September 2011 for a two day visit. The delegation comprises of 14 Elected Members and 3 Council Officials and a representative from Coláiste Íosaef, Kilmallock. This visit marks the 21st anniversary of the official twinning partnership between Limerick County Council and Hohenlohekreis. The 2011 programme during the 2 day visit included the following:

- An official meeting between the Councils of Hohenlohekreis and Limerick County to evaluate the existing partnership and to plan its enhancement for the future
- Visit to Adolf Würth GmbH & Co. KG in Künzelsau-Gaisbach, the headquarters of the Würth Group, who are significant employers in Co. Limerick
- A visit to the bioenergy village, Siebeneich, with a tour of the village and a study of self-sufficient energy supply with bioenergy
- A meeting between the representative from Coláiste Íosaef and the Principal of Schlossgymnasium in Künzelsau to develop the potential school partnership with an emphasis on a Green School Programme.

Green-Schools is an international environmental education programme and is commonly known in Europe as Eco-Schools. Germany was one of the first countries to pilot this programme in their schools in 1994. This visit provided an invaluable opportunity for Coláiste Íosaef to find out more on how environmental initiatives have been rolled out in a German School and Village.

Limerick County Council continues to develop and strengthen this partnership through student exchanges, work placements, school partnerships and also through arts, sports and cultural links.

## Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

The County Limerick Joint Policing Committee has 27 members made up of local and national elected representatives, local authority officers, representatives of An Garda Síochána and representatives of the Community and Voluntary Forum.

The Joint Policing Committee met on four occasions in 2011:

14th February 2011	9th May 2011
12th September 2011	25th November 2011

Each meeting of the Joint Policing Committee received an update on crime statistics in the Limerick Division for the previous 3 month period, from the Chief Superintendent, dealing with the areas of Property Crime, Crimes against the Person, Public Order, Traffic Offences, Ethnic and Cultural Diversity and Community Engagement.

At its meeting of 12th September, 2011 the Joint Policing Committee decided to develop a Community Safety Strategy for County Limerick for the period 2012 to 2014. The Strategy will provide a clearly defined work programme for the JPC and associated agencies for this period.

A workshop was held on 27th October, 2011 to which local and national elected representatives, Limerick County Council staff, County Development Board agency representatives, members of the County Limerick Youth Council, members of the Limerick County Community and Voluntary Forum and members of An Garda Síochána were invited. On the day over 50 representatives attended.

The attendees were asked to make suggestions relating to improvements in service delivery under five key objectives:

- Public Order
- Road Safety
- Targeting Crime and Drugs
- Supporting Young People
- Supporting Families

The Community Safety Strategy will be launched in 2012.

1



2



3



## Tidy Towns

- Priming Grants of €100 are provided to community groups in County Limerick to assist with the cost of purchasing trees, shrubs, street furniture etc. In 2011 a total of 52 applications were received from local groups such as Residents' Associations, Tidy Towns Committees and various Action Groups.
- The LIMERICK IN BLOOM Competition, which is sponsored by Limerick County Council and Shannon Development, was organised with the view to promoting community involvement in the improvement and enhancement of the local environment. In 2011 a total of 46 entries were received and prizes were awarded at a special Awards Ceremony which was held in the Council Chamber, County Hall on the 26th October 2011. The 2011 Overall Winner of Limerick in Bloom and the winner of Category 4, catering for Housing Estates and Community Areas, was Glin Homes for the Elderly. Adare Tidy Towns were named overall winner of Category 3 for villages and towns with a population over 700. Oola was named overall winner of Category 2, for villages and towns with a population of 301-700 and winner of Category 1, for villages with a population under 300, was the village of Kiltelly.

## Comhairle Na Nóg

The Comhairle na nÓg in County Limerick held its AGM in County Hall, Dooradoyle on the 7th of October 2011. 35 Schools and youth groups were invited, of which 27 attended with a total of 82 delegates. The delegates discussed the issues of Self Esteem and Bullying at the AGM.

A Youth Council of 30 delegates were elected at the Comhairle na nÓg AGM to participate in the enhanced programme of events for the period 2011-2013.

The Youth Council met 11 times in 2011, and worked on promoting Youth Mental Health throughout the year. In April 2011, they presented their report on the 2010 enhanced programme to members of the Limerick County Council & HSE staff.

They highlighted the following recommendations:

- More workshops and awareness days at schools
- Provide more facilities for young people to talk about their

- feelings/mental health e.g. youth clubs and schools
- Provide information packs and training for teachers, youth club leaders to discuss mental health
- Workshop days in post-primary schools to familiarise young people with the language around mental health.

## Bocce Court And Gym Equipment

The Community and Enterprise Section in association with County Limerick Sports Partnership secured Sports Capital Grants under the Local Authority Grants Programme from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport to develop 3 Bocce Courts - 2 in Castletroy Neighbourhood Park and 1 in the Demesne in Newcastle West. Funds were also secured for the installation of Outdoor Gym Exercise Equipment in Castletroy Neighbourhood Park and the Demesne in Newcastle West. The total grant received for these projects was €28,406.

## Mini Pitch Refurbishment

The Community and Enterprise Section availed of capital grants under the Local Authority Grants Programme from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport to refurbish 2 mini pitches at Rathkeale and Patrickswell. The total grant received for the refurbishment of the Rathkeale Mini Pitch was €25,000. The total grant received for the refurbishment of the Patrickswell Mini Pitch was €23,154.

## Pride of Place

The winners of the 2011 Pride of Place Competition were announced at a gala celebration ceremony in Gorey, Co. Wexford on Saturday 5th November, 2011. More than 500 people from practically every county on the island were in attendance to hear the results of the 9th annual competition.





Images: 1. County Limerick LSP's Operation Transformation Walk with Kayleigh Yeoman in UL 2. Renovated Mini Pitch 3. Limerick Sports Partnerships Treaty Warriors Team Photo 4. County Limerick Sports Partnership Street Handball Tournament in the Delta Dome 5. County Limerick LSP's Get BACK Challenge Mountain Bike Sportif 6. Renovated Mini Pitch 7. County Limerick Local Sports Partnerships National Play Day in Coillte Curraghchase Forest Park.

Communities in County Limerick once again excelled in the Pride of Place Competition. For the fifth year in a row a County Limerick community has received a first place award in the all-island competition.

The Mullally Lawns, Mullally Grove, Inse Bui and Turagh Crescent, collectively known as the Cappamore Estates, was awarded first place in the Housing Estates Category. Commenting on Cappamore Estates, the judges said: "The welcome for the judges on the day of their visit was complimented by a display of passion, energy, excitement and enthusiasm. They really enjoyed their visit to this wonderful community - one of the best examples of a community looking after its own area that they have encountered. It commended itself for so many reasons - the hard working committee, the volunteers, the cleanliness, the level of participation by the residents, the sense of enjoyment and the relationship with the council and other agencies. The judges wish this community every success in the future". Adare village was awarded runners-up in Category 3 for populations between 500 and 1000. County Limerick's third entrant was Croom Development Association in the single issue category of Community Health Initiative.

## Scheme Of Assistance For Community Playgrounds

The Scheme of Assistance for Community Playgrounds supported a total of 5 Community developed playgrounds in 2011. The participating playgrounds are in Glin, Foynes, Ballingarry, Murroe and Kilfinane.

Community and Enterprise continued to provide assistance to communities proposing to develop playgrounds throughout the County.

## Integration Working Group

In March 2011 the Limerick City and County Integration Working Group (IWG) unveiled its first annual progress report at the Hunt Museum, Limerick. The report was officially launched by Jan O'Sullivan, T.D. and highlights the work done in 2010 under the key thematic headings: Education and Language; Information and Training; Supporting Communities; Employment; Health and Welfare; Non-Discrimination and Justice; and Arts, Sports & Interfaith. The focus of 'Integrating Limerick' is to enhance the participation of all communities in the social and cultural life of Limerick City and County, improve representation of minority

communities in local governance and representative groups and provide equal opportunities for all by improving accessibility to rights and services.

In 2011 there was further progress in relation to the current three year Limerick City and County Integration Plan. Some of the highlights of 2011 in delivering on these objectives included:

- Two very successful, high-profile week-long events devoted to promoting integration of migrants in Limerick City and County - the inaugural Intercultural Week (May 21-29) and Limerick Language Alive Week (Oct 17-23), as part of an extensive calendar of events throughout the year including Africa Day and Limerick Sixes Sportsfest.
- Numerous dramatic and visual arts projects including the Inaugural Limerick Indian Film Festival in May and the establishment of youth theatre initiative, Shoulder to Shoulder Education and Integration Through the Arts, which presented The X-Factor intercultural performance in December.
- Considerable advancement by the Mid-West Interfaith Network in promoting interfaith dialogue and progress towards autonomy.
- Development of a weekly Limerick Intercultural Futsal league at The Factory Community Centre, Southill.
- Delivery of information, training and supports in multiple formats (including seminars, courses, mentoring), specifically tailored for entrepreneurs from minority ethnic or migrant backgrounds.
- Development and publication of health-related information resources in multi-lingual formats.
- Provision of appropriate training on intercultural awareness and communications skills and information to various audiences (including community groups, schools, service providers, and migrants) regarding migrants' rights and entitlements, the immigration system.
- Launch of local public awareness integration and anti-racism campaign with Bus Eireann entitled 'InteGreat' and Limerick launch of Turn Off the Red Light campaign.

The Community and Enterprise Section, County Limerick Local Sports Partnership and the Arts Office were involved in a number of the above projects and events.

Finally, under the auspices of Limerick County Council there was a successful application to the Office of the Minister for Integration to secure funding of €33,000 to complete actions under Integrating Limerick Strategy in 2011.

## Social Inclusion Measures Group

The SIM Group met on three occasions in County Hall in 2011. The membership of the Group includes Limerick County Council, HSE, VEC, Teagasc, Probation & Welfare Services, An Garda Síochána, Citizen Information Board, FÁS, West Limerick Resources, Ballyhoura Development Ltd., County Limerick Childcare Committee, Hospital Family Resource Centre and the Community & Voluntary Forum.

Cllr. Mary Jackman was nominated by Limerick County Council onto the Group as the elected representative in 2011.

In 2011, the SIM Group considered and endorsed the Local and Community Development Programme (LCDP) Strategic Plans 2011 - 2013 of West Limerick Resources and Ballyhoura Development Ltd. The actions set out in these plans are aligned to the priority actions of SIM as defined in the LAPSIS (Local Anti-Poverty Social Inclusion Strategy) Plan 2010 - 2016.

A number of actions have been progressed in the five priority initiatives of LAPSIS.

Sub Groups were established from existing members of SIM in each of the five initiative areas and these Sub Groups will work together to progress the LAPSIS actions.





Limerick County Development Board

Limerick County Development Board (CDB) has responsibility for the implementation of a Strategy for Economic, Social & Cultural Development of County Limerick and to ensure co-ordination between various agencies and organisations at a local level. The work of the board and its sub-structures is supported by the Director and staff of Community & Enterprise. In 2011 the CDB focused on the delivery of priority actions as part of its current 3 year implementation plan. Some of the areas addressed include:

- Business and Enterprise Supports updates
- Broadband Infrastructure in the County
- Renewable Energy Strategy
- County Limerick Arts Plan
- Tús – Community Work Placement Initiative
- County Tourism Plan
- Endorsement of Local Development Companies’ plans.

Business Support Unit

The Business Support Unit acts as a point of contact within Limerick County Council to facilitate and encourage economic and business development in County Limerick and ensure a quick and co-ordinated response to existing and prospective businesses by acting as an interface with local authority systems and departments.

The Business Support Unit (BSU) of Limerick County Council also works with other agencies such as the County Enterprise Board, local development companies, Enterprise Ireland, I.D.A., Shannon Development, FÁS, Third Level Institutions and Chambers of Commerce in supporting business initiatives and enterprise projects in the county.

In 2011 the Unit published a brochure entitled ‘Look to Limerick – we have what you need’ as a guide aimed at promoting Limerick and attracting new businesses. In addition, clinics were held in County Hall to provide support and advice to clients with business plans and project proposals.

An on-line Limerick Business Directory was established by the BSU on the council’s website, www.lcc.ie, and features contact details of and information on commercial, industrial and professional companies that are in the county. The BSU also worked with the Kemmy Business School in the University of Limerick to research how the council can better support entrepreneurs and business people in County Limerick.

Other projects and initiatives that were undertaken by the BSU during the year include:

- An EU project, called GERONIMO II, that is examining the potential for biogas facilities to be developed on County Limerick dairy and pig farms, funded from the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme.
- Financial and technical supports to construct enterprise centres, including Broadford Community Enterprise Centre, which was developed on the site of the old creamery.
- The development of tourism infrastructure in the county including further sections of the Great Southern Trail at Castlematrix, Rathkeale and Barnagh Hill with funding from the Smarter Travel Programme.
- Kilmallock Green Town, a project coordinated by the BSU that assists businesses to reduce their waste, energy and water

costs with technical support and guidance from the Limerick Clare Energy Agency and Regional Waste Management Office.

Limerick City & County Joint Economic Committee

The City and County Development Boards in Limerick established a Joint Economic Committee following completion of reviews of their respective Strategies for Economic, Social and Cultural Development. The Committee provides a forum through which the long term economic development of Limerick can be facilitated. In 2011 the process of developing an ‘Economic Strategy for Limerick’ was initiated by the Joint Economic Committee. This strategy will link into the work of the Limerick Reorganisation Implementation Group which will oversee the creation of a new single local authority in Limerick that will have a strong focus on economic development.

County Limerick Local Sports Partnership

In recognition of Limerick being “European City of Sport” for 2011, County Limerick Local Sports Partnership (LSP) experienced very high levels of engagement in Sport, Physical Activity and Education & Training throughout the year.

The LSP continued the provision of education and training to 600+ coaches/administrators and teachers in the various sporting clubs and schools throughout the county. These programmes/ courses are part of the “continuous professional development” (CPD) for the participants. They ensure that safety, best practice and up to date information are available to our coaches and the participants at grassroots level. 600 coaches have completed the Code of Ethics “basic awareness” course to date with another 150 completing the Children’s Officer Course. 160 Childcare facilities have completed the 6 hour Buntus Start and Sport training courses.

The LSP had face to face contact with 4,850 participants through programmes, events and CPD Courses throughout the year. Programmes developed were aimed at a number of target groups identified in the Strategic Plan 2008-2011. Examples of these programmes include; Active Girls and Mothers Programme in Pallasgreen and Kilmallock which aims to increase the involvement of girls and their mothers in physical activity (86 participants). Programmes that support Travellers were developed in Askeaton, Newcastle West, Abbeyfeale, Rathkeale and Kilmallock and the LSP will continue to work with these groups in 2012. Older Adult groups that promote physical activity have been developed in 35 communities across the county with 90 older adults taking part in training to become physical activity leaders (PAL’s). The LSP held 3 local and 1 Inter County Older Adults Sports Fest with 100 participants at each fest.

- Key Activities Include:**
- FitWalk Workshops - 5 week programme
  - FittleSticks Walking Programme (Arthritis Ireland, Older Adults Groups)
  - Development of first virtual Slí na Sláinte route in Adare GAA Pitch
  - Street Handball Programme for 120 Primary School Pupils
  - Splash & Dash (50m swim, 600m run) - Primary School Programme
  - Older Adults Sports Fest
  - School Completion Programmes based around health and

- physical activity for 186 participants
- Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Seminars
- Community Health & Wellness
- Sports Capital Projects (Development of Bocce Courts x3 and Outdoor Gyms x2 in Castletroy and Newcastle West Neighbourhood Parks)
- Way to go Kids Programme (programme to tackle Childhood Obesity)
- Coordinated BikeWeek, Recreation Week, Mobility Week, National Play Day activities which involved in 741 participants
- 2011 Get BACK Challenge Cycle Series and Runs which involved 2000 participants in 10 events.

One of the key successes of the LSP is its ability to work in partnership with a number of agencies so that programmes and projects can be developed further and can become more sustainable. This is very evident in the case of projects developed with West Limerick Resources, VEC, HSE, Foróige, Limerick Youth Service and the County Childcare Committee. We have had a number of successful projects in 2011 with West Limerick Resources namely “Towards Occupation programme” where the focus was on participant’s positive mental health and wellbeing and “Social Inclusion and Fitness Through Dance” programme where participants increase their fitness levels through the medium of dance.

A second programme called Link2BActive has also been developed where 25 sport and recreation facilities across the County have provided reduced rates and opportunities for unemployed persons to participate in physical activity to maintain a positive attitude.

In 2011, the LSP in partnership with the University of Limerick PESS Department provided 12 week placements for 3rd Year Students to develop Community Health Initiatives. This was a very successful partnership in providing expertise at local level to a variety of community groups. The LSP have also continued our Research around physical activity and teenage girls with a more advanced and pioneering body of research being compiled at present. A total of 100 girls from 3 County Schools are participating in this study. Partner agencies that have signed up to this study include Mid-West Regional Hospital and Dublin City University. Findings of this study, the first of its kind in Ireland, will be available Spring 2012.

In partnership with the City LSP we have a dedicated Sports Inclusion Development Officer (SIDO), Rosemary Ryan, who promotes and develops programmes for people with a disability. There are numerous programmes running across the county and participation numbers are growing each quarter. The LSP hope to provide clubs and community groups with education and equipment grants during the year and to continue this programme as many other funding streams have discontinued.

As always the LSP continued to inform its stakeholders through the revised website www.clfsp.ie and the publication of 3 newsletters (1 specific to older adults) throughout the year.

Recreational Services Indicators Report

<b>Rec.1 Children's Playgrounds</b>		
A. Number of children’s playgrounds per 1,000 population directly provided by the local authority	0.06	
B. Number of children’s playgrounds per 1,000 population facilitated by the local authority	0.04	
C. Number of children’s playgrounds directly provided by the local authority	8	
D. Number of children’s playgrounds facilitated by the local authority	5	
<b>Rec.2 Local Authority-Facilitated Leisure Facilities</b>		
Number of visitors to local authority-facilitated leisure facilities per 1,000 population	591.29	
Number of visitors to local authority-facilitated leisure facilities	79545	

Community Participation Indicators Report

<b>CP.1 Participation in local Youth Council/ Comhairle na n-Og scheme</b>		
Percentage of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/ Comhairle na n-Og scheme	77.14	
<b>CP.2 Groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum</b>		
Number of groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum	1619	



Library Highlights 2011



1. Josephine Cotter Coughlan, Director of Services; Cathaoirleach Richard Butler & Damien Brady, County Librarian welcome the new fully automated vehicle.  
• The country's most modern Mobile Library at a cost of €185,000 has a bold new exterior design, purpose-built lift and over 3000 new items of stock from which to choose.  
• A New Delivery Van at a cost of €37,000 also received 100% Government grant-aid.

2. Story time with Rose at Dooradoyle Library.

3. Cathaoirleach Richard Butler & Niamh O'Rourke issue the first books on the Mobile Library.

4. Santa on His Visit to Limerick County Library.

5&6. Kilmallock Youth Club members exhibit their artwork in the Library as part of Foróige's Citizenship Project.

7. Detail from Mungret College Exhibition in Limerick Studies, based on the Hannan Family donation of photographs & documents.  
• Limerick Studies Media Archive collection, comprising over 300 items, documenting life & lifestyles in Limerick during the 20th Century was launched.

8. Science Magic & Mystery in Kilmallock Library with the First Years of Coláiste Iósaeaf Secondary School.

• Through Limerick Studies, users can now access online material relating to sports events, history, crafts & customs in County Limerick.



Library Service Indicators Report

L.1 Library Public Opening Hours

A. Average number of opening hours per week for full-time libraries	36
B. Average number of opening hours per week for part-time libraries (where applicable)	10.78
C. Percentage of full time libraries that have lunchtime openings	100
D. Percentage of full time libraries that have evening openings	100
E. Percentage of full time libraries that have Saturday openings	100

L.2 Library Visits

Number of visits to full time libraries per 1,000 population	3140.26
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L.3 Library Stock

A. Annual expenditure on stock per head of population (county/city wide)	1.85
B. Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for books	2.84
C. Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for other items	0.56

L.4 Internet Access through Libraries

Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population	461.71
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- Images:
1. Jimmy Coleman, Chairperson, and Veronica Keogh, Secretary of Cappamore Housing Estates Committee receiving their prize as the Overall Winners under the Housing Estates Category in the Pride of Place Competition 2011.
  2. Members of Adare Community Council being presented with their prize as runners-up under the 500-1000 population category at the Pride of Place Awards Ceremony 2011.
  3. County Limerick LSP's Get BACK Challenge 100k Doonbeg Cycle.







## County Arts Office

2011 was the first full year of the implementation of the County Arts Plan 2010-2015 *Nurturing Creativity, Enriching Lives*. This plan which promotes inclusiveness and active participation by the citizens of the County sets out a number of priorities with an emphasis on sustaining established programmes and the developing of new initiatives with key partners. The continued support for established programmes in tandem with new initiatives ensured that there was active engagement of all age groups in the County, from children to older citizens, from people with disabilities to people from a range of ethnic backgrounds. In any one week, 600 to 800 children and young people participated in programmes provided by the County Arts Service. On average twenty workshop/event type activities happened on a weekly basis in the county's towns and villages. Events included concerts, exhibitions, drama productions, readings and lectures with weekly workshops in drama, singing, creative writing and much more.

County Arts Office Programme highlights for 2011 included the following:

### • Arts in Our Primary Schools

Over one thousand children in eleven of the county's primary schools actively engaged in creative art activities facilitated by professional artists in the Council's artist in schools programme. For a period of 9 school days artists in the fields of music, craft, drama, visual arts, opera and dance enthused and fired the imagination of children.

### • Arts and Our Young People

- County Limerick Youth Theatre (Co. LYT) – 2 branches based at Honey Fitz Theatre Lough Gur and Cappamore Community Centre (the latter funded by Ballyhoura Development but organised by the County Arts Office). Co. LYT Youth Theatre took part in a youth theatre exchange with Lomiaa Youth Theatre in Finland.

- EIF Programme - Education & Integration through the Arts. The County Arts Office and Friars Gate Theatre are lead partners in this programme that seeks to empower third country nationals through the arts, with confidence, language skills and meaningful interaction with wider Irish society. Three post primary schools involved to date. Other partners - Doras Luimni, County Limerick VEC.
- Our County Limerick Youth Choir proved themselves wonderful Ambassadors when they were invited to perform at the Irish Festival of Oulu in Finland.

### • Éigse Michael Hartnett

The 12th Anniversary of this annual literary and arts festival was held in April in Newcastle West. A bumper programme of events featuring national and international poets, writers, musicians and performers were held throughout the town. Highlights of the weekend were a powerful, unique choral interpretation and reading of Hartnett's haunting poem *Sibelius in Silence*. Sung by the County Limerick Youth Choir with choral works selected by choir director Máire Keary Scanlon and reading by Fiona Quinn. Also readings with poet Jo Slade, David Whyte, Theo Dorgan and music and song by Brian Kennedy and Juliet Turner. Wide outreach programme that includes schools, the elderly, and people with disability.

### • Michael Hartnett Poetry Award

National Poetry Award that each year alternates between poets writing in Irish and English.

### • Limericks Built Heritage

This bi-annual series of lectures explored the built heritage of Limerick from medieval times to the present day. Organised by the arts, archaeology, planning and community enterprise sections, the series of five lectures drew large audiences during the months of January to March.

### • Arts in Health Programme

- Integrated Dance Initiative brings disabled and non disabled people together to create and perform dance. Participants include residents of Rathfredagh Cheshire Home, service users of Enable Ireland, Irish Wheelchair Association Youth Club Members, service users of Brothers of Charity NCW, transition year students from 5 post primary schools, Shanagolden Youthreach Centre, UL Students.
- Maternity Hospital Initiative Weekly led artist workshops in Regional Maternity based on the theme *My Head, My Heart, My Womb*.
- Day Care Centre Initiative Weekly led artist workshops for the elderly in Cappamore and Drombanna Day Care Centres (Organised by the County Arts Office, funded by Ballyhoura Development).
- Bealtaine Programme of events that includes exhibitions, theatre performances, etc.

### • SoulScapes Festival

Co- hosted by Friars Gate Theatre Kilmallock and the County Arts Office on Wednesday evenings in November. This series which is a celebration and reflection of the human spirit played to packed houses and was opened by Minister Jimmy Deenihan.

- Other festivals not directly organised by the County Arts Office but in receipt of funding and other support: **Lough Gur Storytelling Festival, Fleadh by the Feale Festival, Lough Gur Summer Solstice Festival.**

### • Community Singing Programme

Three groups have now been initiated in Foynes, Drombanna and Doon. The latter two groups have mixed gender membership but all three groups bring people together for the joy and fun of singing a wide range of multi ethnic song.

Images:

1. Ned Lynch reading at Eigse Michael Hartnett Festival 2011
2. Launch of our SoulScapes Series in Friars Gate Kilmallock - Joan MacKernan Arts Officer, Jo Slade Poet and Caoimhe Reidy Friars' Gate Theatre
3. Co. Limerick Youth Theatre and Loimaa Youth Theatre Exchange 2011
4. Creativity In Older Age Bealtaine 2011 Exhibition in Dooradoyle Library.



# Human Resources

To create a working environment that encourages and supports staff in the achievement of the organisation’s objectives.

## General

The Human Resources Department is tasked to enable, encourage and support staff in their pursuit to achieve corporate objectives and their own personal aspirations. In order to achieve this objective the Department has responsibility for the following key areas of activity within the Council;

- Staff Recruitment & Retention
- Staff Development & Training
- Staff Relations
- Work / Life Balance Initiatives
- Staff Support Services
- Pensions Administration
- Performance Management
- Management of Change

At the end of December 2011 the Council employed 753 staff.

## Staffing

Last year the staffing levels in the organisation fell to seven hundred and fifty three mainly through retirements. The retirements were right across the organisation across locations and disciplines. Many had given a lifetime of loyal and committed service to the Council and the citizens of the county. The Council owes a sincere debt of gratitude to these staff. Sonas agus slainte chuige.

## Corporate Issues Indicators Report

### C.1 Working Days lost to Sickness

A. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through certified leave	4.33
B. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through uncertified leave	0.69

### C.2 Staff and Training Development

Expenditure on Training and Development as a percentage of total payroll costs:	4.30
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## Change Management

Under the auspices of the Public Service Agreement 2010 – 2014, commonly known as the Croke Park Agreement the Council made further progress in the implementation change within the organisation. The Council wishes to acknowledge the commitment and flexibility of staff in the achievement of the initiatives undertaken. Examples of such change issues include;

- Preparatory work for the amalgamation of Limerick City and County Council's
- Rationalisation of the Library Branch network
- Cross disciplinary working arrangements
- Training and Health & Safety modules on CORE system operational
- Joint Veterinary Services with City Council
- Joint application with City Council/UL for Smarter Travel Initiative
- Customer service kiosks in area offices
- Continuing county roll out of SCADA water monitoring system
- GIS Flood Mapping tool operational
- Re-assignment of staffing resources to priority business areas
- New sick leave/pay policies introduced
- Standardisation of pay cycles for all staff.

# 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 Facilities Management, Higher Education Grants, Register of Electors, Freedom of Information, Customer Services, Purchasing and a wide variety of ancillary services relating to Council business.

## Freedom of Information (FOI)

During 2011 there were 30 FOI requests. Request outcomes 2011

- Total - 30 (also 1 case live from previous year)
- Granted - 14
- Part-granted - 9
- Refused - 5
- Withdrawn - 2
- Live Case at year end - 1 (Application not finalised)

The policy of Limerick County Council is:

- To give members of the public access to information held by this Authority, to the greatest extent possible, in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 & 2003 and consistent with the public interest and the right to privacy of the individual.

Further information and application form is available on the Councils website [www.lcc.ie](http://www.lcc.ie)

## Register of Electors

The Register of Electors is updated and 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 Dáil, 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

The revised Dáil constituency boundaries have now come into effect following the Dáil election in 2011. There are now 3 new Dáil constituencies in County Limerick where there were previously 2, Limerick East and Limerick West. The new constituencies are as follows and the number of Dáil Seats in each

Limerick City	-	4 Seats
Limerick	-	3 Seats
Kerry North/ West Limerick	-	3 Seats

The Local Government Electorate stands at 99,897 on the Live 2011/2012 Register of Electors published in February 2011.

Adare	22,387
Castleconnell	24,628
Kilmallock	18,709
Newcastlewest	18,635
Rathkeale	15,538

The Dáil Electorate stands at 97,635 on the Live 2011/2012 Register of Electors as at February 2011 broken down as follows-

(Limerick East 05 Limerick 09)	15,116
(Limerick West 05 Kerry North-West Limerick 09)	10,893
(Limerick East 05 Limerick City 09)	22,535
(Limerick West 05 Limerick 09)	49,091

Members of the public can check if they are registered correctly on the Electoral Register on [www.lcc.ie](http://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](mailto:electoralregister@limerickcoco.ie)

## General Administration

### Higher Education Grants

Limerick County Council administered the Higher Education Grant scheme in 2010/2011. Over 600 new applications were received for this academic year and in excess of 900 renewals were processed. Total expenditure amounted to over €5.2m and this includes an amount of €469,086 that was paid out as Special Rate of Maintenance Grants. A total of 228 students were awarded Special Rate of Maintenance Grant in 2010/2011.

The Department of Education and Skills have confirmed that from the start of the 2012/2013 academic year, all new higher education grant applications are to be processed by one single awarding authority. A new unit called Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) has been set up and this is a division of the City of Dublin VEC.

All first-time new applications and students that have changed to a new course (e.g. Degree to Post-grad, or change of subject) will be applying to an online only application system through [www.studentfinance.ie](http://www.studentfinance.ie) to the new centralised authority.

Existing Limerick County Council grant-holders who have not changed course and are continuing their studies will continue to be assessed and paid by Limerick County Council until they have reached the end of their current course.





- Images:
1. Solar PV Panels on roof of County Hall which generate 15% of our energy needs.
  2. John the Baptist Community School Visit to County Hall 8-11-2011 also in the photograph are Cllr. Bill O'Donnell, Tina Knox and Padraig Power Corporate Services.

## Facilities Management

The Facilities Management Section implemented further energy saving measures for County Hall during the year. These initiatives saw an improvement in the Building Energy Rating from a C3 to a B3. The Council is continuing to explore further ways to help to improve the buildings performance and reduce energy costs and usage. During the year the Climate Change Committee drafted a code of practice for the first time in the Councils history. Its objectives include the continued provision of an efficient public service which also extends to caring for our global environment. As part of the our environmental strategy Limerick County Council is committed to efficient energy management and will practice energy efficiencies throughout all our premises, plant and equipment. Along with the energy saving initiatives the building strategy has been improved and changed. These improvements have resulted in a reduction of one million KWH and savings of €92,000.



# Planning & Development

**Tom Enright**  
Director of Planning  
and Development



To achieve balanced economic and social development and protection of the natural and built environment, through the proper planning and sustainable development of the County.

Once again the main priorities of the Planning Department in 2011 were to continue to meet our statutory requirements in the determination of planning applications and planning enforcement while in Forward Planning the focus was on reviewing relevant Local Area Plans, varying the County Development Plan and on the advancement of the Mid West Area Strategic Plan (MWASP) and the Shannon Integrated Framework Plan. Within the Forward Planning Section of the department the Heritage functions saw a significant increase in activity.

The Planning Department also plays a proactive role in encouraging and facilitating enterprise development and employment opportunities in County Limerick and continues to engage with the relevant agencies and planning applicants to promote job creation in County Limerick.

In 2011 the number of planning applications received again decreased on previous years reflecting the ongoing economic situation. However, once again other areas of planning such as enforcement increased in activity.

- to refuse, giving a grant rate of 84% and a refusal rate of 16%;
- 210 planning applications for individual houses and 4 applications for housing development were decided in 2011;
- Of the 210 decisions made in respect of individual houses, 77.6% were decisions to grant planning permission;
- Environmental Impact Statements were submitted with four applications;
- Of the 47 decisions made by the Council appealed to An Bord Pleanála and determined by them in 2011, 34 were upheld by the Board giving a confirmation rate of Council decisions of 72%.

## Customer Focus

The department continues to operate a number of customer-focused services and seeks to improve the services offered on an ongoing basis. These include:

### a) "Over the Counter Validation Service"

Planning staff continued to provide the "over-the-counter" validation service saving valuable time for member of the public who availed of the service. This service operates from 10am to 2pm Monday-Friday.

### b) Pre-Planning:

In 2011, 376 pre-planning meetings were held between area planners and potential applicants to discuss issues associated with possible planning applications. The average waiting time for such meetings is eight working days.

### c) Website:

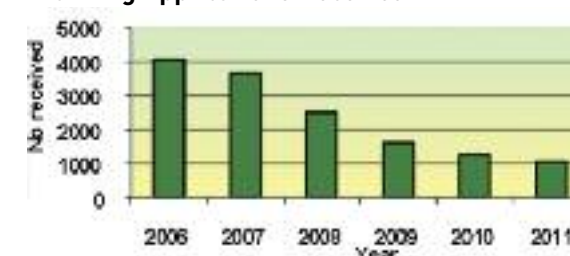
The planning website ([www.lcc.ie/planning](http://www.lcc.ie/planning)) provides a variety of useful information to the public in relation to planning matters including facilities to:

- Check the progress of planning applications,
- View planning applications, zonings, protected structures, etc on maps linked to the online planning enquiry system;
- Download planning forms.

## Development Management

The decrease in the level of economic activity nationally and particularly in the level of construction activity and an associated decrease in the number of planning application was again clearly evident in 2011 when Limerick County Council's Planning Department processed a total of 1,064 applications. This represented a 16.3% decrease in the number of applications received by the Planning Authority compared to 2010. However, the rate of decline in the number of planning applications submitted appears to be slowing down compared to the rate of decline in previous years.

### Planning Applications Received



### Key Statistics:

- 1,064 planning applications were received by Limerick County Council in 2011;
- 41 applications were deemed invalid at the beginning of the planning process in 2011 with a further 121 subsequently being deemed invalid as the site notice did not comply with regulatory requirements;
- Decisions were made in respect of 795 applications in 2011: 668 decisions to grant planning permission and 127 decisions

## Derelict Sites

Derelict Sites can have a detrimental impact on the social, economic, commercial and visual aspects of the surrounding neighbourhood.

Utilising the legislation the Council will focus on towns and villages within the county and will work with owners to improve the appearance of their property but will enforce the provisions of the derelict sites legislation where necessary.

28 New Derelict Sites files were opened in 2011 and one conviction was obtained for non compliance with a Section 11 Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act 1990.



Enforcement

As in previous years there was a significant amount of enforcement action taken by Limerick County Council where the Planning Enforcement Section sought to ensure compliance with planning permission and to prevent unauthorised development in accordance with the statutory requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2011

During 2011 Limerick County Council used its enforcement powers to ensure that development was carried out in accordance with the planning regulations. The table below sets out the enforcement action taken during 2011.

Complaints Received	542
Complaints Dismissed	3
Complaints Resolved	110
Warning Letters Issued	286
Enforcement Notices Issued	220
Prosecutions	18

Regulation of Quarries

On 10th December, 2011 Limerick County Council gave notice of its intention in accordance with Section 261A of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2011 to examine every quarry in its administrative area. It was proposed to examine each quarry to determine whether having regard to the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive and the Habitats Directive if one or more than one of the following was required but was not carried out

- i. an environmental impact assessment;
- ii. a determination as to whether an environmental impact assessment is required;
- iii. an appropriate assessment.

To date, over 80 quarries have been identified within the County. Work will continue in 2012 in order to determine if existing quarries in County Limerick meet the requirements of the Environmental Impact assessment Directive and the Habitats Directive.

Safety Works On Unfinished Estates

The Department of Environment, Community and Local Government made available a funding provision of €5m in 2011 to deal with safety issues in Unfinished Estates. In line with the guidelines from the Department, unfinished estates were set under 4 categories ranging from minor works outstanding (category 1) to estates where there were serious public safety issues (Category 4).

The Council received funding for seven category 4 estates throughout the county and a total of €105,887.84 was spent on carrying out safety works for these estates. This mainly involved erecting fencing in order to prevent access to these sites by the general public. Limerick County Council also set aside €100,000 from the Development Fund to carry out additional essential works in this area.

Pilot Scheme of Assistance for the Maintenance of Open Spaces

The concept of promoting community involvement in the improvement and enhancement of the local environment has been developed and strengthened over the years by Limerick County Council.

In January 2011 the Planning Department and Community and Enterprise Section undertook a pilot initiative to assist residents' groups in the maintenance of open spaces in their estates. The scheme provided for a grant of up to €1,150 to residents' groups to undertake the maintenance in their own right, or to engage a contractor to undertake the maintenance. This scheme has proved popular with 23 applications received from residents' groups, of which 17 proceeded under the scheme. Grants totalling €17,565 were paid to the residents groups.

Forward Planning

A variation to the County Development Plan 2010-2016 was adopted in December 2011 to incorporate the revised Core Strategy, Joint Housing Strategy and zoning maps for Montpelier and Fedamore.

In 2011, Clare County Council acting on behalf of Kerry County Council, Limerick County Council, and Limerick City Council progressed plans to develop for the first time an inter jurisdictional Strategic Integrated Framework (SIFP) for the lands adjoining the Shannon Estuary and the estuary itself. The Strategic Integrated Framework Plan is intended to be a master plan for sustainable development of the Shannon Estuary. In addition significant work was carried out in 2011 in the preparation of a Mid West Strategic Area Plan (MWASP).

Local Area Plans

New Local Area Plans for Cappamore and the Southern Environs were adopted in 2011. Reviews also commenced of the Bruff, Hospital, Rathkeale and Kilfinane Local Area Plans. The Local Area Plans for Montpelier and Fedamore were revoked and zoning maps included in the County Development Plan 2010 – 2016.

Participation in Community Plans

The Forward Planning Section also assisted the Kilcornan and Kildimo community groups in the preparation of community plans for their areas.

Conservation

Two buildings in the county were awarded grants under the Structures at Risk Fund operated through the P&D Department by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The grants amounted to €28,000 and the buildings involved were:

- Ballydonnell House
- Croagh Medieval Church and Tower

Heritage

This area saw a significant increase in activity in 2011 in terms of Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) reports for plans prepared within the department and for other sections of the Council.

Work also commenced on the Renewable Energy Strategy for the County.

Smarter Travel Pilot Scheme

Working in conjunction with Limerick City Council and the University of Limerick, Limerick County Council has secured designation for Limerick City as one of Ireland's Smarter Travel Demonstration Areas 2012 - 2016 .

Smarter Travel Areas is a €23 million investment initiative of the Department of Transport pioneering measures to look at different approaches to transport and spatial planning to encourage people out of their cars and towards improving transport options within communities.

Of the 39 proposals submitted for consideration, Limerick's was ranked first.

Limerick will see €9 million invested over the period of the programme.

In broad terms the funding will be spent on:

- Improved cycling ways, including safe routes to school and to key business and workplace zones;
- Secure cycle parking in town centres or at public transport nodes;
- Better walking facilities, including pedestrianisation;
- Lower speed limits in residential and town centre areas;
- School and workplace travel planning;
- e-Working;
- Car clubs.

Development Contributions

A review of the 2009-2013 Scheme to take account of the changed economic circumstances was commenced in 2011. While the Planning and Development Contribution (PDC) Review System has put in place a much improved management and reporting system for the collection and follow up on outstanding development contributions the decrease in construction activity has resulted in a significant loss of income in this area. This in turn has a significant impact on the number of projects to be funded from the Development Fund in the roads, water services and community development area.

Monies Received in 2011 in accordance with Development Contribution Scheme	[1,361,301]
Monies outstanding relating to applications which have commenced in 2011 in accordance with Development Contributions Scheme	9,589,840



Development Fund Allocations 2011

Projects	€ Transfers 2011
Banogue	50,000.00
Foynes / Shannon Estuary	25,000.00
Small Capital Schemes	130,000.00
Mains Rehabilitation	30,000.00
MWASP	35,963.13
Shannon Integrated Framework Plan	27,400.00
Rathkeale Car Park	30,000.00
Kilteragh Dooradoyle	2,000.00
Meadowlawn Raheen	34,000.00
Gleann Choill Dromcolligher	24,000.00
Lisoleen Bruree	40,000.00
Golf Links Road	179,000.00
Limerick Nenagh Cycleway	2,000.00
Pedestrian Crossing Askeaton	25,000.00
Footpath / Disabled Parking Loghill	15,000.00
Retaining Wall Carnane N.S.	20,000.00
Zebra Crossing Dooradoyle Road	15,000.00
Zebra Crossing adjacent to Mc Donalds R926	15,000.00
Car Parking Garrienderk Church	982.17
Footpath Galbally Road Ballylanders	33,017.83
Footpath Longs Est Drombanna	6,591.18
Footpath Annacotty Village	15,000.00
Extension of Footpath Monaleen Park	1,401.50
Footpath Ballyneety Village	10,000.00
Footpath Doon Village	14,012.81
Traffic Calming Cappamore	10,000.00
Footpath Caherline School	6,622.59
Footpath Dalys Cross	6,371.92
Footpaths Broadford Village	15,000.00
Drainage Works Templeglantine	15,000.00
Wall at Boherbui Newcastle West	10,000.00
Footpath Massrock Newcastle West	10,000.00
Sign Post Improvements Initiative 2011	50,000.00
Development of Plans / Projects	150,000.00
Ballykeeffe Neighbourhood Park	5,000.00
Castletroy North Park	160,000.00
CEC Croom	30,000.00
CEC Broadford	50,000.00
CEC Kantoher	60,000.00
CEC Kilmallock	50,000.00
Foynes Flying Boat Museum	50,000.00
Patrickswell Mini Pitch	9,900.00
Rathkeale Mini Pitch	5,580.00
LSP Boules Courts	19,500.00
LSP Outdoor Gym Equipment	15,640.00
	1,508,983.13

Planning Key Service Indicators

<b>P.1 Planning Applications - Decision Making</b>	
<b>Individual Houses</b>	
A. Number of applications decided	211
B. Number of decisions at A above which were decided within 8 weeks	59
C. Number of decisions at A above which required the submission of further information	147
D. Number of decisions at A above where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	5
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	76
F. Percentage of applications granted	77.73
G. Percentage of applications refused	22.27
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	57.14
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	42.86
<b>New Housing Development</b>	
A. Number of applications decided	10
B. Number of decisions at A above which were decided within 8 weeks	3
C. Number of decisions at A above which required the submission of further information	7
D. Number of decisions at A above where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	0
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	76
F. Percentage of applications granted	50.0
G. Percentage of applications refused	50.0
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	100
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	0
<b>Other: Not Requiring Environment Impact Assessment</b>	
A. Number of applications decided	572
B. Number of decisions at A above which were decided within 8 weeks	282
C. Number of decisions at A above which required the submission of further information	287
D. Number of decisions at A above where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	76
F. Percentage of applications granted	87.24
G. Percentage of applications refused	12.76
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	76.32
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	23.68
<b>Other: Requiring Environment Impact Assessment</b>	
A. Number of applications decided	2
B. Number of decisions at A above which were decided within 8 weeks	2
C. Number of decisions at A above which required the submission of further information	0
D. Number of decisions at A above where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	0
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	51
F. Percentage of applications granted	0
G. Percentage of applications refused	100



Planning Key Service Indicators

H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	0
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	100
<b>P.2 Planning Enforcement</b>	
A. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were investigated	542
B. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were dismissed	3
C. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were resolved through negotiations	113
D. Number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters	285
E. Number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices	220
F. Number of prosecutions	18
<b>P.3 Planning Public Opening Hours</b>	
Average number of opening hours per week	33
<i>The Planning Desk at County Hall is open for 30 hours per week</i>	
<b>P.4 Pre-Planning Consultation</b>	
A. Number of pre-planning consultation meetings held	376
B. Average length of time (in days) from request for consultation with local authority to actual formal meeting for pre-planning consultation	6
<b>P.5 New Buildings Inspected</b>	
Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	15.31
<b>P.6 Taking Estates in Charge</b>	
A. The number of residential estates for which the planning permission has expired, in respect of which formal written requests for taking in charge (from residents or developers), were on hands at the beginning of the year	71
B. Number of estates that were taken in charge in the year in question	9
C. Number of dwellings at B above	566
D. Percentage of estates at A above not completed to satisfaction of the planning authority in line with the planning permission	42.25
E. Number of estates at D above in respect of which enforcement action was taken in the year in question and/or the bond was called in	12
F. Number of estates at D above in respect of which works were undertaken by the authority to bring the estate to taking in charge standard	2





# Environment, Emergency Services & Consumer Affairs

**Gerry Behan**  
Director of Environment,  
Emergency Services and  
Consumer Affairs



To protect, maintain and improve the natural environment and promote a sustainable built environment in County Limerick.

## Waste Management

The Waste Management Section received a total of 327 complaints in 2011 (17 End of Life Vehicles, 52 Abandoned Cars and 258 General Waste). In total, 347 waste enforcement complaints were closed off during the reporting period (26 End of Life Vehicles, 54 Abandoned Vehicles and 267 General Waste). Following investigation some complaints were resolved on site. Warning letters, statutory notices and/or prosecutions were initiated in respect of the remainder. The following is a breakdown of the enforcement actions taken under the Waste Management Acts (WMA) 1996 – 2011 during the year.

Waste Management Act Enforcement Actions	Number
Prosecutions initiated during the year	26
Waste 'warning letters'	68
Statutory Section 14 Notice WMA (instructions)	61
Statutory Section 55 WMA (measures)	48
Statutory Art 9 Notice under the Landfill Levy Regulations (requiring tax to be paid on each tonne of inert waste left insitu)	7
Statutory Section 18 (requiring information)	1
Statutory Notices under the Food Waste Regulations	2

### Facility Permit/Collection Permits

There were 28 Waste Facility Permits in the County at the end of 2011 covering a range of activities from Soils and Stones, Paper, Compost, Transfer Stations to End of Life Vehicles. The Council granted 11 new Waste Facility Permits/Certificates of Registration in 2011. 9 Waste Facility Permits expired together with 1 Certificate of Registration. 21 permitted Facilities were audited to ensure compliance with the conditions of their Waste Facility Permit and 31 permitted Waste Collectors were audited to ensure compliance during 2011.

### End of Life Vehicles

End of Life Vehicles continued to be a priority for the Waste Enforcement Team and unauthorised facilities were either regularised through the permitting process or shut down. Prosecutions are ongoing in relation to other unauthorised sites. At the end of 2011, there were 8 Approved Treatment Facility permits issued by Limerick County Council for End of Life vehicles.

### Misc. Inspections

Misc. Inspections	No. Inspected
Packaging Self Compliers	6
Packaging General	13
Food Waste /Bye Laws	65
Farm Plastics/Plastic Bags/Tyres	2
Waste Collection Permit application reviews	90

### Unauthorised Waste Activities

The Council continues to target unauthorised waste activities. In July, the Council, in conjunction with Limerick City Council, the Gardaí, Customs and Excise, the Revenue Commissioners and Department of Social Protection carried out a joint operation to close down a long term unauthorised scrap yard. 27 vehicles were impounded including lorries involved in the collection of scrap. These were later destroyed. Approximately 100 tonnes of waste was also removed.

Illegal filling of lands with Construction and Demolition waste continues to be a focus and enforcement action is taken against the relevant persons. Statutory notices are issued to either remove the waste or if appropriate the landfill levy tax is applied where inert waste is left in situ.

3 Road blocks were undertaken throughout 2011 in conjunction with the Gardai in order to  
(1) Target unauthorised Waste collectors  
(2) Ensure that authorised waste collectors are adhering to the conditions of their permits.

## Environmental Laboratory

Limerick County Council Environment Laboratories are involved primarily in regulatory compliance and the quality control of water supplies and waste water treatments plants in County Limerick. Our aim is to provide a world class service to protect the citizens of the County.

Work undertaken includes the monitoring of drinking water quality in both Public and Ground Water schemes and the provision of scientific advice and investigative support services in the event of drinking water quality failures. As in previous years the Laboratory Team was involved in frequent after hours response to drinking water quality issues.

The laboratory team is involved in the monitoring of the treatment efficiency of Local Authority waste water treatment facilities in the County, most of which are now licensed by the EPA.

The laboratory team is also involved in surface water monitoring

in compliance with Water Framework Directive requirements and in processing samples for legal actions in water pollution.

## Litter Management & Awareness

During 2011, the Council's Litter Management team continued to tackle the problems of illegal dumping, fly tipping, unauthorised signage, etc. through a combination of enforcement and awareness measures.

- A total of 1,585 litter and waste related complaints were received.
- Over 200 on-the-spot fines were issued to offenders.
- Legal proceedings were initiated under the Litter Pollution Acts in 25 cases.
- Clean-up works were undertaken at litter "Black Spots" and "No Dumping" signs were erected at sites and on routes prone to illegal dumping.
- The Environment Section worked in tandem with An Taisce to promote National Spring Clean month (April) and assistance (bags, gloves, litter pickers) was given to schools, residents associations, community groups, etc. Over 2000 volunteers participated in 150 clean-up events throughout the County during the month long campaign. Waste collected during the campaign was disposed of or recycled where possible.
- Anti-litter awareness materials including "car litter bags", "pooper scoopers", "re-usable shoppers", "car disc holders", etc were distributed free by Environment Section staff at community events and at shopping centres.
- A total of 6 County Limerick schools were awarded their first Green Flag and 21 schools renewed their flags at ceremonies held at Thomond Park, Limerick.

## Regional Waste Management Office 2011

The region has now published the fifth annual report on the Replacement Waste Management Plan for the Limerick/Clare/Kerry Region 2006-2011 in Dec 2011. The regional household recycling rate has risen to 39% just below the national average of 40%. Prevention awareness has further influenced waste generation with another reduction in waste arising per person to 290kgs per person. The Commercial & Industrial Waste shows a slight increase compared with 2009 figures and Construction and Demolition Waste remains at an all time low of close to 200,000 tonnes. This office also processes Waste Collection Permit applications

for the Limerick/Clare/Kerry Region but this will be nationalised in 2012 and the National Waste Collection Permit Office will be based in Offaly.

- The Local Authority Prevention Network Project (LAPN) has continued to receive EPA funding. The programme has grown in capacity as a result of the regional technical ability to deliver waste prevention and resource conservation initiatives across a wide variety of sectors. Projects involving waste prevention and resource conservation have been developed throughout the region, some examples are at the following locations:
- Killmallock Green Town in association with Community & Enterprise
  - Milford Care Centre
  - Leisure Centres in the region
  - Greening Festivals/Events

This region also took part in European Week for Waste Reduction and launched a new Eco-Pledge Website <http://www.managewaste.ie/ecopledge/home.aspx> By clicking on the site people can make eco-pledge and there are choices such as using tap water instead of bottled water or always making a shopping list or using only rechargeable batteries.

The region has an extensive waste minimisation programme for business and industry and one of the highlights for 2011 was the Launch of the SMILE(Saving Money through Industry Links and Exchanges) Programme in conjunction with the local Enterprise Boards and sponsored by the EPA which aims at exchanging resources between members in order to save money and prevent waste.





## Waste Bye-Laws

The Council adopted "Bye-Laws for the Presentation, Storage & Segregation For The Purpose of and in the Course of the Collection of Household and Commercial Waste, 2011", on 24th October, 2011. The Bye-Laws require all householders and businesses to have a refuse collection service in place with an authorised waste collector, to present waste in a wheeled bin generally, to maintain the wheeled bin in good condition and not to create a nuisance to traffic, pedestrians or the environment when presenting waste for collection.

Householders and commercial customers must participate in segregated waste collection for recycling and for organic waste when it is offered by a refuse collector.

## Fire Service

The Fire Service processed 100 Fire Safety Certificates for new buildings and gave advice in relation to 259 planning referrals. Fire Officers carried out 232 inspections of existing buildings including licensed premises. Numerous community fire safety activities were undertaken including fire fighter visits to all 118 primary schools, 28 chip pan unit safety demonstrations and 5 fire station open days. 250 smoke alarms were installed by fire fighters and community groups.

The 6 fire crews based in Newcastle West, Cappamore, Foynes, Rathkeale, Kilmallock and Abbeyfeale received 721 call-outs in 2011. An additional 232 callouts were received by Limerick City Council for incidents in the city environs of the County. 2 New fire fighters were appointed to Foynes and Newcastle West Fire Stations. 2 New water tankers were added to the fire fleet to supplement the water supply at fires, these are now located in Rathkeale and Cappamore. 72 Block training courses were

organised and delivered to fire fighters with an average 16 training days per fire fighter. The Service maintains a fleet of 27 appliances and other equipment for fire and emergency incidents. Additional personal protective equipment was purchased for working at road traffic accidents, working near water and for dealing with hazardous materials incidents. A new national Local Authority Health and Safety Inspection and Reporting System and new national Standard Operating Guidelines were implemented throughout the service.

As part of the on-going work in Major Emergency Management, an Emergency Helpline Service was established in Limerick County Council. An Inter-Agency Flood Plan and an Inter-Agency Media Plan for County Limerick were developed and training provided to relevant staff.

## Veterinary Services

The Veterinary Service is responsible for delivering Food Safety regulatory controls, in accordance with the terms of the contract between the Council and the Food Safety Authority of Ireland, in various meat processing establishments located within the County.

During the year a total of 1488 Cattle, 4574 Sheep, 279 Pigs and 2926 Horses were slaughtered in the ten local abattoirs; each animal was inspected by a veterinarian pre and post slaughter. Carcase meat passed fit for human consumption was stamped with an indelible health mark.

An important aspect of our work is to ensure that the welfare of animals is protected and that they are humanely treated at all times within the abattoir.

Sampling for residues of prohibited substances or animal medicines in meat under the National Residue Monitoring

Programme was undertaken. 73 samples were submitted to the relevant laboratories under this programme; all returned satisfactory results.

Various other types of meat processing premises were supervised in accordance with EU and National requirements.

Our Dog Wardens continued to address the issue of stray and unwanted dogs during the year. They cover both Limerick County and City. A total of 781 Dogs were handled at our Shelter located at the Civic Amenity Facility in Mungret; 309 of these were either reclaimed or rehomed. We are continually seeking to re-home many friendly and attractive dogs whose owners, for various reasons, can no longer care for them. Anyone interested in re-homing a dog should telephone or visit the shelter; opening hours are 9.30am-12.30pm, Monday-Friday. Phone No.061 301604.

The stray and abandoned horse problem was not quite as acute during 2011 as in 2009/2010. 127 horses were impounded, a 12% reduction on the previous year. The majority of the horses impounded are now not reclaimed, reflecting the poor market value for this type of horse.

## Civil Defence

Limerick County Civil Defence had a very active year. Training continued throughout the County while Civil Defence personnel participated in Operational Activities / Training Exercises and also provided numerous types of assistance to their local Communities.

**Training Events Included:**

- Participation in Regional Exercise in Nenagh
- Avian Flu Training - Mallow
- Ex Foynes - (Boat Exercise Shannon Estuary)

- Annual Training Camp Lisdoonvarna / Lahinch Camp Co Clare
- Rescue Skills Weekend - Annacotty / Bruff
- Casualty Upskilling Weekend Annacotty

## Training Locations

First Aid, Auxiliary Fire Service (AFS), Rescue and Communication classes were carried out in the following locations:

- Annacotty **Occupational First Aid, Rescue, Comms and AFS**
- Askeaton **Occupational First Aid and Rescue**
- Rathkeale **Kayaking**
- Doon **AFS**
- Killaloe / Foynes **Boating**

## Courses

- Local - Members completed courses and received certification in Occupational First Aid, Cardiac First Response, Emergency First Response, Radio Communications and Water & Flood Awareness.
- Civil Defence College - Members attended courses and received certification in Radio Instructor, Cardiac First





Camp Diversion Curraghchase  
Ballingarry 10k Charity Run  
Get Back Challenge Ballyhoura  
Mungret Regional FC Fun Day  
Doon Vintage Show  
Deel Swim  
Older Adults Fest - UL  
Limerick Classic Cycle Tour Caherconlish  
Co Limerick VEC Sports Day - UL  
Great Limerick Run  
Pallasgreen Vintage Festival  
Phoenix Challenge Pallaskenry  
Limerick Sixes Crescent College Comp

Castletroy Neighbourhood Park

The horticulture section undertook improvement works at Castletroy Neighbourhood park which entailed (1) the placing of gullies on the existing footpath network (2) up grading the existing seating and picnic areas to enable access by disabled persons.

Castletroy Neighbourhood Park continues to be a focal point for the inhabitants of Castletroy and surrounding areas.

Amongst the attractions of the park are

- 1.2 km of pedestrian pathways,
- A fully equipped children's playground,
- Skateboarding area,
- Circular cycle route,
- A central performance/exhibition area with covering structure.

It also features an array of natural habitats, including a 4,300sq. metre lake, wetlands, wildflower grass areas and woodlands

Castletroy Neighbourhood Park is located opposite Castletroy College. It is complemented by park furniture, ornamental planting areas, a public car park and main entrance feature. It will continue to be open to the public seven days a week during daylight hours.

Opening hours  
8.30 to 16.30 October to April  
8.30 to 21.00 May to September

- Images:
1. Limerick County Fire & Rescue Service Fire fighters participate in training at Shannon Foynes Port Company.
  2. Civil Defence in the St Patricks Parade Newcastle West
  3. Castletroy Neighbourhood Park Play Area.
  4. Civil Defence in the St Patricks Parade Newcastle West
  5. Castletroy Neighbourhood Park.

Fire Service Indicators Report

F1: Fire Service Mobilisation

- A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire  
*Limerick County Council does not have any Full-Time Stations*
- B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire 4.58
- C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other emergency incidents  
*Limerick County Council does not have any Full-Time Stations*
- D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other emergency incidents 4.86

F.2 Percentage of Attendances at Scenes

- A. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes 33.94
- B. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes 47.81
- C. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes 18.25
- D. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes 37.14
- E. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes 49.14
- F. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes 13.71

F.3 Fire Prevention

- A. Total number of fire safety certificate applications received 101
- B. Total number of fire safety certificate applications processed (including cases deemed invalid) 117
- C. Total number of applications deemed invalid 5

Responder and People Moving/Manual Handling Instructor. Assessment & Treatment of Trauma, Cardiac First Responder Upskilling.

Recruitment

- Nine Recruits successfully completed their induction training and received certification as Cardiac First Responders and Occupational First Aiders.

Community Events / Operations

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

Searches for missing Persons  
Shannon Estuary Swim  
National Play Day Curraghchase  
Rás Luimini Cycle Race  
Operation Transformation  
St Patrick's Parade Newcastle West  
Oola 10k Fun Run  
Clonshire Equestrian Centre - Hunter Trials  
Lough Gur Summer Festival  
Milford Harvest Fair  
Cappamore Agricultural Show  
Dawn Mass Ard Patrick  
Limerick Women's Mini Marathon  
Mud Run (Bernardos) Limerick Race Course  
Chernobyl Children Project  
Athea Horse and Pony Races  
Splash & Dash UL  
Limerick Diocesan Pilgrimage  
James Keating Memorial rugby-Bruff





Environmental Service Indicators Report

WATER

E.1 Unaccounted For Water

Unaccounted for water (UFW) as a percentage of total volume of water supplied under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for	30.62
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E.2 Drinking Water Analysis

A. Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to public schemes	99.40
B. Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to private schemes (where appropriate)	98.70

WASTE MANAGEMENT

E.3 Waste Segregation

A. Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for dry recyclables	99.49
B. Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for organics	40.92

E4: Housing Waste Sent for Recycling

A. Percentage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling	33.46
B. Tonnage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling	8490
C. Tonnage of household waste recycled, which arises from waste collected from recycling facilities (i.e. bring banks, civic amenity centres, transfer stations and other recycling facilities)	8034

E5: Household Waste Sent for Landfill

A. The percentage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill	66.54
B. The tonnage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill	16885

E6: Recycling Facilities

The total number of Bring Sites in the local authority area	125
The total number of Civic Amenity Centres in the local authority area	4

Glass

A. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	53
B. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	4
C. The total number of facilities for recycling	57
D. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	2.12

Cans

E. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	52
F. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	4
G. The total number of facilities for recycling	56
H. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	2.08

Textiles

I. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	90
J. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	4
K. The total number of facilities for recycling	94
L. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	3.49

Environmental Service Indicators Report

Batteries

M. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	18
N. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	3
O. The total number of facilities for recycling	21
P. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.78

Oils

Q. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0
R. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	3
S. The total number of facilities for recycling	3
T. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.11

Other materials

U. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	10
V. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	4
W. The total number of facilities for recycling	14
X. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.52

LITTER

E7: Litter Prevention and Enforcement

A. Number of full-time litter wardens	3
B. Number of part-time litter wardens	24
C. Number of litter wardens (both full- and part-time) per 5,000 population	1.00
D. Number of on-the-spot fines issued	231
E. Number of on-the-spot fines paid	42
F. Number of prosecution cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	23
G. Number of prosecutions secured in cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	6
H. Number of notices issued (under sections 9, 15, 16, 17 and 20 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997)	0
I. Total number of prosecutions taken (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	23
J. Total number of prosecutions secured (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	6
K. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are unpolluted (i.e. litter-free)	16
L. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are slightly polluted with litter	63
M. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are moderately polluted with litter	19
N. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are significantly polluted with litter	2
O. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are grossly polluted with litter	0

E8: Environmental Complaints and Enforcement

A. Total number of cases subject to complaints concerning environmental pollution (relating to waste, litter, water pollution, noise pollution, air pollution)	1588
B. Number of complaints investigated	1398
C. Number of complaints resolved where no further action was necessary	1368
D. Number of enforcement procedures taken	521

E9: Percentage of Schools Participating in Environmental Campaigns

A. Percentage of primary schools participating in environmental campaigns	83.33
B. Percentage of secondary schools participating in environmental campaigns	90.48



# Finance, Information Systems & Motor Taxation



2



**Oliver Killeen**  
Head of Finance  
and Information Systems

## finance

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



## Balance Sheet

### As At 31st December 2011

	2011 €	2010 €
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Operational	387,193,742	387,247,000
Infrastructural	2,372,717,156	2,382,106,851
Community	552,748	552,748
Non-Operational	12,349,779	14,004,473
	<b>2,772,813,425</b>	<b>2,783,911,072</b>
<b>Work-in-Progress and Preliminary Expenses</b>	<b>56,886,139</b>	<b>52,949,783</b>
<b>Long Term Debtors</b>	<b>27,027,037</b>	<b>27,240,151</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Stock	303,417	283,889
Trade Debtors and Prepayments	11,261,232	14,648,106
Bank Investments	12,557,395	30,392,656
Cash at Bank	3,646,413	-
Cash in Transit	5,075	5,075
	<b>27,773,532</b>	<b>45,329,726</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Bank Overdraft	-	1,151
Creditors & Accruals	18,984,044	31,096,020
Urban Account	-	-
Finance Leases	128,645	375,937
	<b>19,112,689</b>	<b>31,473,108</b>
<b>Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)</b>	<b>8,660,843</b>	<b>13,856,618</b>
<b>Creditors (Amounts greater than One Year)</b>		
Loans Payable	59,853,252	65,652,024
Finance Leases	-	128,646
Refundable Deposits	1,557,395	1,492,656
Other	35,382	-
	<b>61,446,029</b>	<b>67,273,326</b>
<b>Net Assets / (Liabilities)</b>	<b>2,803,941,415</b>	<b>2,810,684,298</b>
<b>Represented By</b>		
Capitalisation Account	2,772,813,426	2,783,911,072
Income WIP	57,319,321	52,708,171
Specific Revenue Reserve	384,904	384,904
General Revenue Reserve	(384,926)	276,282
Other Balances	(26,191,307)	(26,596,132)
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>2,803,941,418</b>	<b>2,810,684,297</b>

## Income and Expenditure Account Statement

### For Year Ended 31st December 2011

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

Expenditure by Division	Gross Expenditure 2011 €	Income 2011 €	Net Expenditure 2011 €	Net Expenditure 2010 €
Housing and Building	11,668,326	12,190,107	(521,781)	121,746
Road Transport & Safety	26,239,336	16,667,143	9,572,193	8,527,324
Water Services	20,730,376	9,473,796	11,256,580	11,891,391
Development Management	5,695,264	1,079,740	4,615,524	4,521,558
Environmental Services	20,995,633	11,732,402	9,263,232	7,826,274
Recreation and Amenity	5,277,841	498,880	4,778,962	5,009,204
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	10,120,927	9,321,080	799,847	668,272
Miscellaneous Services	8,184,561	3,932,069	4,252,492	4,752,198
Central Management Charges	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Expenditure/Income</b>	<b>108,912,265</b>	<b>64,865,216</b>		
Net Cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates and Local Government Fund			44,017,049	43,317,966
Pension Related Deduction			1,814,086	1,950,869
Local Government Fund			19,560,989	21,248,129
Commercial Rates			28,546,458	27,634,169
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers</b>			<b>5,904,483</b>	<b>7,515,201</b>
<b>Transfers from/(to) Reserves</b>			<b>(6,565,691)</b>	<b>(7,320,139)</b>
<b>Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year</b>			<b>(661,208)</b>	<b>195,061</b>
<b>General Reserve at 1st January</b>			<b>276,281</b>	<b>81,220</b>
<b>General Reserve at 31st December</b>			<b>(384,927)</b>	<b>276,282</b>



Summary Of Capital Expenditure And Income

Expenditure	2011 €	2010 €
Payments to Contractors	10,833,764	69,349,563
Purchase of Land	842,338	7,165,548
Purchase of Other Assets	1,686,724	9,992,004
Consultancy & Professional Fees	3,148,248	7,073,117
Other	18,482,890	11,720,625
Total Expenditure (Net of Internal Transfers)	34,993,964	105,300,857
Transfer to Revenue	502,446	859,625
Total Expenditure (Including Transfers)*	35,496,410	106,160,482
Income		
Grants	21,619,599	100,382,808
Non Mortgage Loans	750,000	7,550,000
Other Income		
Development Contributions	5,323,950	2,87,333
Property Disposals		
Land	39,700	5,622
LA Housing	692,400	496,469
Other	107,038	-
Tenant Purchase Annuities	42,871	48,405
Car Parking	-	-
Total Income (Net of Internal Transfers)	29,125,734	112,887,255
Transfers from Revenue	1,058,879	1,251,743
Total Income (Including Transfers)*	30,184,613	114,138,998
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	(5,311,797)	7,978,516
Balancec (Debit)/Credit at 1st January	19,707,494	11,728,979
Balance (Debit)/Credit at 31st December	14,395,697	19,707,495
* Excludes internal transfers, includes transfers to and from Revenue Account		

Revenue Collection Service Initiators

Rev.1 House Rent	
A. Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from House Rent	89.61
B. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are up to 4 weeks old	6.42
Percentage of Debit balance in arrears at year end 2011	
C. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 4-6 weeks old	5.22
Percentage of Debit balance in arrears at year end 2011	
D. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 6-12 weeks old	13.60
Percentage of Debit balance in arrears at year end 2011	
E. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are more than 12 weeks old	74.76
Percentage of Debit balance in arrears at year end 2011	
Rev.2 Housing Loans	
A. Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from Housing Loans	77.77
B. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are up to 1 month old	1.86
Percentage of Debit balance in arrears at year end 2011	
C. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 1-2 months old	2.86
Percentage of Debit balance in arrears at year end 2011	
D. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 2-3 months old	3.65
Percentage of Debit balance in arrears at year end 2011	
E. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are more than 3 months old	91.63
Percentage of Debit balance in arrears at year end 2011	
Rev.3 Commercial Rates	
Amount collected at year-end as a percentage of amount due from Commercial rates	87
Rev.4 Refuse Charges	
Percentage of households paying refuse charges (including waivers) at year end	N/A in Limerick County Council
Rev.5 Non-Domestic Water Charges	
Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due for Non-Domestic Water Charges	77



# Motor Taxation

- During 2011, the Council continued to provide the full range of motor taxation services, both over the counter and postal applications from its office at Lissanalta House, Dooradoyle and an over the counter vehicle-licensing service from Arás Smith-O'Brien in Newcastle West. Both offices were open to the public for approximately 30 hours per week throughout the year.
  - 2011 Saw an overall reduction in the financial value of the revenue collected by the Motor Taxation Department and a slight deterioration in the speed at which postal applications were processed. However with a reduction in all resources the Service Indicators Reports for the year clearly demonstrate every effort was made to maintain the previous year's performance. Full details are set out in the Reports.
- Key statistics are as follows:
- (i) The overall number of vehicle license transactions decreased in 2011 by 2.6% from 2010, ( i.e. 127,905 from 131,175 )
  - (ii) The number of driving licence transactions decreased marginally by 0.45% from 19,423 in 2010 to 19,433 in 2011.
  - (iii) The percentage of transactions in relation to vehicle license transactions dealt with on the same day decreased by 10.61%, namely 89.87% in 2010 to 79.26% in 2011 and driving licenses by 2.44%, namely 95.85% (2010 ) to 93.41% (2011).

## Motor Taxation Service Indicators 2011

<b>M.1 Number of Motor Tax Transactions</b>	
A. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter	85843
B. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post	23783
C. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	63428
D. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter	49.60
E. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post	13.74
F. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	36.65
<b>M.2 Time Taken to Process Motor Tax Postal Applications</b>	
A. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the same day as receipt of the application	18851
B. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the second or third day from receipt of the application	4871
C. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	16
D. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) in over five days from receipt of the application	45
E. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the same day as receipt of the application	79.26
F. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the second or third day from receipt of the application	20.48
G. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	0.07
H. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) in over five days from receipt of the application	0.19
<b>M.3 Time Taken to Process Driving Licence Applications</b>	
A. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	18143
B. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of the application	1216
C. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the Fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	22
D. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with in over five days from receipt of the application	42
E. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	93.41
F. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of the application	6.26
G. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	0.11
H. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with in over five days from receipt of the application	0.22
<b>M.4 Public Opening Hours</b>	
Average number of opening hours per week	30

# Information Systems

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

During 2011 the Information Systems section continued to support sections in achieving their objectives. Some of the main areas of activity were:-

## Desktop Virtualisation

After having carried out a successful trial of Virtual Desktops and Thin Clients, it was decided to rollout Virtual Desktops and Thin Clients as replacements for Desktop P.C.'s. Several Virtual Desktops are created on a physical Server, these Virtual Desktops are then accessed using Thin Clients. The use of Virtual Desktop and Thin Clients have many benefits for deployment, management, and maintenance of desktops, and also reduce carbon footprint and save in power costs.

## On-Line Payments

Limerick County Council introduced online booking and payment for Arts events during 2011. This was of benefit to both organisers of the events, and those attending as they had booked in advance and were certain of gaining entry to events.

## Systems Development

During 2011 the Information systems section developed, upgraded and implemented a number of systems that enabled user sections provide a more effective and efficient service to the citizens of County Limerick, some of these included:-

- Emergency Helpline Call Tracking System.
- Extranet for Reservoir Water Levels.
- Upgrade of Online Digitiser.
- Upgrade Planning Enquiry System.
- G.I.S. Viewer for Register of Protected Structures.
- Supported Implementation of Electronic Time & Attendance System.

## Helpdesk\Systems Support

The I.S. section continued to provide a user Helpdesk during 2010, and supported and maintained end-user systems, including WEB sites throughout 2010.



# Area Development



## Adare & Castleconnell Area

The Adare and Castleconnell Offices provide a wide range of services to the suburbs of Limerick City, as well as the more rural areas of the Castleconnell and Adare Electoral Areas. The diversity of needs in these areas provides its own challenges, and in 2011, despite decreased resources in both finances and manpower, the Annacotty and Croom offices met these challenges well.

Denis Carmody, Senior Supervisor for the Croom Roads Area retired in October, and sadly, Paddy O'Sullivan, Roads Ganger, Croom Area passed away suddenly in December 2011. Denis is pictured overleaf together with two former employees, Paddy Long and Seamus Horgan.

### Mulkear Life

Having carried out restoration works in 2010, the Inland Fisheries Board created a mural on one of the Bridge Parapets over the River Mulkear in Annacotty Village, depicting the river in all its glory.

### Road Services - Adare

Roads Services activities throughout the year included road surface improvement and restoration, provision and restoration of footpaths, drainage works, pedestrian crossings, etc. Funding for our Roads Services activities is sourced locally and centrally,

(National Roads Authority and Department of Environment, Community and Local Government).

- Local Road Restoration & Improvement, (examples, footpath improvements, drainage, masonry works, and road surface works), €1,121,832;
- Local Road Surface Dressing, €249,000;
- Local Improvement Scheme at Clarina, €25,680;
- Low Cost Safety Scheme - New Roundabout on Fr. Russell Road €130,973;
- Specific Improvement Grant for Main St., Croom, €219,602;
- Regional Road Restoration and Improvement, €95,998;
- Regional Road Surface Dressing, €69,728;

### Low Cost Safety Scheme Works

Works were completed at Tuogh Cross, Adare at a cost of €26,200, to improve safety in accessing the nearby Shountrad National School. Works were also done on the Fr. Russell Road in Dooradoyle - a new roundabout was provided in November to improve access to the Racefield Centre, as well as a number of neighbouring housing estates. A new pedestrian crossing was provided on the Fr. Russell Road also in February of 2011.

### Smarter Travel Scheme

Works were completed on the Dooradoyle road under this scheme in 2011. These works included the provision of a new Bus Bay, Bus Shelter and footpath. A new Bus Shelter was also provided on the N21 at the Main St., Adare.





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Images: 1. Denis Carmody pictured with Friends at his Retirement. 2. Eddie Grimes a native of Caherconlish who had been awarded the Runner Up Prize in the Irish Association of Supported Employment for his dedication and commitment to his workplace, receiving his presentation at County Hall. 3. Patrickswell Set Dancers receiving their presentation at County Hall. 4. The Special Olympians Honoured in County Hall. 5. A presentation was made to Joe Meagher, on the occasion of his retirement from the Civil Defence, and in recognition of his voluntary contributions to his community. 6. Paul O'Keeffe, Assistant Archaeologist, NRA, Cllr Mary Harty, Cathaoirleach of Limerick County Council, Tom Cassidy, Conservation Officer, Limerick County Council, Paddy Rainsford, Lisnagry and Paddy Tuohy, Castleconnell Historical Society, at the reinstalled Fitzgibbon Memorial in Lisnagry.

## Adare Electoral Area Committee

9 Meetings were held in 2011 on many subjects, including Winter Emergency Planning, Radon Monitoring in Council Houses, Road Works Scheme, Extinguishments of Rights of Way, etc. The Committee also received a delegation from Fedamore Community Council at one of its meetings.

Croom Area Office serves the Adare Electoral Area for the purposes of Roads maintenance. It is also a point of information for people in the Croom area where advice and assistance can be given regarding other Council services, as well as enabling people to pay their Rent, Rates, Water Charges, etc.

The Adare Electoral Area Committee hosted a Reception at its October meeting for the Patrickswell Scór Team. They had won the All Ireland Set Dancing Championship Finals earlier in the year in Killarney, having revitalized Scór in the Patrickswell area – a marvelous achievement.

## Castleconnell Electoral Area Committee

Our outgoing Chairperson, Councillor Noel Gleeson, handed the chain of office to Councillor John Egan in September. 10 Committee meetings were held in 2011 with Agenda items including, Local Area Plan reviews, land disposals, traffic control and management, winter readiness, speed limits, signage, winter maintenance, the road programme, and more.

### Receptions in the Castleconnell Electoral Area

2 Receptions were held in the Castleconnell Electoral Area in 2011 to honour special achievements by people living in the area.

In September, three Special Olympians, Alan Quinlan, Brian Ridgway, and Marguerite Donegan were honoured for their sporting achievements.

In October, two presentations were made – one to Eddie Grimes a native of Caherconlish, who had been awarded the Runner Up Prize in the Irish Association of Supported Employment for his dedication and commitment to his workplace.

A presentation was made to Joe Meagher on the occasion of his retirement from the Civil Defence, and in recognition of his voluntary contributions to his community.

### Housing and Water Services

- Local Authority Rented Houses – a figure of approximately €148,500 was invested in the maintenance and upgrading of our rented homes. In 2011 we continued our investment in the energy efficiency upgrading of our housing stock. Improvements have been carried out on 17 houses and works consisted of a mix of central heating, attic and cavity wall insulation, double glazed windows installation, draught excluders and low cost energy bulbs. With a stock of approximately 450 houses, this upgrading work will take some time to complete. At present, works are being done on those that are vacant and being re-allocated.
- New Purchases – 14 houses were purchased in the Castleconnell & Adare Electoral areas in 2011 for letting to persons in need of housing.
- Housing Grant Schemes – For privately owned housing there are 3 schemes available, Housing Aid for Older People, Housing Adaptation Grant for People With a Disability and Mobility Aids Grant. A total of 63 grants were paid in 2011 amounting to approximately €475,000. As always, needs far outweigh available resources.
- Castletroy Sewerage Treatment Plant – Works were done to increase the capacity of this plant to allow for future industrial, commercial and residential development in the area.
- Connections to Water Supply – 2011 saw a huge reduction in the number of applications to connect to the water mains – only 19 as opposed to 33 in 2010 and a high of 99 in 2007. This reduction starkly illustrates the downturn in the construction industry.
- Water Treatment and Maintenance – An Inter-connecting pipe was laid from Foilean in Doon to Pallasgreen. This pipe will improve water supply and increase water pressure to Pallasgreen. Upgrade works were also done on Foilean Springs including drilling a number of boreholes aimed at increasing output and improving treatment facilities.
- Group Schemes Upgrade – Improvement Works which had begun in 2010 were completed in 2011 on the Mountshannon Road. These works were aimed at improving efficiency of maintenance and reducing water leakage.
- Private Well Grants – in tandem with Water Services Section, 15 applications were processed and approved between the Adare and Castleconnell areas. A small grant, this assists persons who are providing a domestic private water supply for their homes, and it is of a maximum €2,013. Works which can be considered are, drilling or commissioning a new well, rehabilitating an existing well, deepening or relining an existing bore, removing silt, constructing or improving a pumphouse, piping or other facilities in connection with the supply of water, provision or improvement of mechanical or

electrical equipment and the provision or improvement of facilities or equipment for the treatment of water.

- Burial Ground Maintenance and Improvements – Our investment in this area continues, and 2011 saw Kilkeedy Burial Ground in Ballybrown being upgraded and improved.

## Roads Services – Castleconnell

### Castleconnell Electoral Area:

- Local Road Restoration & Improvement, (for example: footpath improvements, drainage, masonry works, and road surface works), €957,287.
- Local Road Surface Dressing, €324,268.
- Local Roads Specific Improve Grant for Murroe Village €219,602.
- Regional Road Restoration & Improvement, (for example: footpaths and road investigation works), €576,000.
- Regional Road Surface Dressing, €96,178.
- Works on the Limerick to Nenagh Cycle Lane on the old N7 were largely completed, at a cost of €1,000,000.
- Green Route Scheme – Works under this Scheme were completed between the Cappamore Road Junction and Vistakon Roundabout on the Dublin Road at Annacotty. A total of €550,000 was spent on various works including provision of a bus lane, cycle lanes, footpaths, new lighting, and improving pedestrian crossings.
- Major Schemes – October saw the opening of the Limerick to

Nenagh Motorway, [M7], an asset which has been lauded by many as it reduces journey times by 10 to 15 minutes. Overlay between Beary's Cross and the Ballysimon Interchange, [N24], completed the suite of overlays between Limerick City and Oola village again making for more enjoyable, safer and timely use of the road network.

- Works under the Smarter Travel Scheme were done at a number of locations. These works included the provision of a bus shelter at the Kilmurry Lodge in Castletroy, a bus bay serving Castletroy College, pedestrian and cycle crossings on the R445 (old Dublin Road), improving information signage for University of Limerick and Limerick City Centre.
- Also under the Smarter Travel Scheme, major works were done on the Golf Links Road in Castletroy, including laying a new watermain, providing new footpaths, and building a stone wall.
- Works totalling €219,602 were done in Murroe village improving road surfaces and footpaths.
- On the National Road at Pallasgreen, a new overlay on the road was completed at a cost of €160,000.
- The Fitzgibbon Monument at Lisnagry had been removed to facilitate the construction of the new roundabout at Finnigans. A new location was selected near the entrance to Lisnagry National School, and an Official Unveiling Ceremony was held in October.



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## Kilmallock area

### Kilmallock Area Committee

During 2011 Kilmallock Area Committee held eleven meetings. At the meeting of 19 July Cllr. Michael Donegan assumed the Chair for a period of 1 year.

The committee received deputations from Bruff, Garrienderk and Kilbreedy at its February, May and December meetings respectively.

A reception was held prior to the May meeting to honour the Coláiste Iosaf Girls Soccer team in their All Ireland F.A.I. Cup victory.

William Naughton of Galbally was honoured with a reception and presentation before the September meeting of the committee. This was to mark William's achievements in the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Athens during June and July of 2011.

### Roads

In the Kilmallock Roads area in 2011 the following works were carried out.

Regional Road Reconstruction	12,340m <sup>2</sup> at a cost of €271,480
Regional Road Surface Dressing	32,920m <sup>2</sup> at a cost of €139,910
Local Roads Reconstruction	66,570m <sup>2</sup> at a cost of €1,264,822
Local Roads Surface Dressing	133,081m <sup>2</sup> at a cost of €479,090

In addition, a sum of €50,000 was allocated for development fund schemes to replace footpaths at Galbally Road, Ballylanders and to provide additional car parking at Garrienderk Church, Effin.

The Kilmallock Area also received funding of €205,000 from an EU Specific Improvement Grant to re-align and stagger a four crossroads junction at Burke's Cross, Galbally where two fatalities have occurred in recent years. This was for phase one of the project with phase two completion being funded in 2012.

In May of 2011 a further sum of €550,000 was received for additional road reconstruction on regional and local roads.

### Housing

#### Maintenance & Preletting

The Housing Section in the Area is responsible for all maintenance and improvement works carried out on our existing housing stock. Pre-letting is one element of this work and in 2011 energy efficiency works were carried out on 29 houses which were void. This work involved the installation of heating systems, heating controls and solid fuel stoves. The walls of the houses were pumped with insulation and the attics were also brought up to current insulation standards.

#### Housing Grants

A total of 66 grants to private houses, to the value of €564,493 were paid by Kilmallock Area Office in 2011. New grants to the value of €510,536 were approved for 60 applicants.

#### Burial Grounds

The Kilmallock Area Office carry out maintenance and improvement works in various burial grounds within the Area. In 2011 works were carried out on walls and gates in Athenasy, Ballintona and Effin burial grounds.

### Water Services

The Kilmallock Water Services Section operates, maintains and improves the water services infrastructure in the Area.

#### Capital Works

In 2011, capital works were carried out in Bruff where there was a new wastewater treatment plant constructed. This plant was a Design Build Operate project where the contractor in consultation with Limerick County Council designed and built the plant but will also be operating it for a 12 month period. The plant will be handed back to the Council in October 2012. The water tower in Bruff was also refurbished in 2011.

The wells in Jamestown which serve Kilmallock and its hinterland were refurbished in an effort to maximise the supply from this natural source. There was also a new pipeline laid at Ballingaddy reservoir to take water from the Jamestown supply.

### Water Treatment

Treatment systems were upgraded in all sources with duty and standby systems being installed. These new systems also had an automatic shut off facility installed to ensure that water of only the highest quality is delivered to our consumers.

#### Cold Spell

Due to the cold spells of 2010 and 2011 works were carried out in water and wastewater treatment plants in an effort to limit the effect the frost and snow had on our treatment processes. Pipework was insulated and heat tracing was also installed.

### Kimallock Town Wall

In 2011, Limerick County Council with grant aid from the Irish Walled Towns Network and the Heritage Council stabilised three separate sections of the western town wall in Kilmallock. In total 62m of wall were consolidated and some further localised areas of repair were also carried out at the foundation course. One area was to the south of the public car-park, the second was within the public car-park and the final section was at the north end behind the Pastoral Centre. The Minister of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht, Jimmy Deenihan visited Kilmallock during Heritage Week and was shown the previous works carried out in 2009 and 2010.

Images: 1. Junction Realignment Works At Burke's Cross, Galbally. 2. Cllr. Eddie Ryan Presents a Commemorative Scroll to Vikki McMahon, Captain of Scoil Iosaf Ladies Senior Soccer Team. Also included are Teresa Mulcair, Teacher, and Sean Twomey, Principal. 3. Section of Kilmallock Town Wall to the South of the car park. Exterior View, as constructed.





## Newcastle West area

The Newcastle West Area Office, Áras William Smith O'Brien, provides a broad range of services throughout West Limerick, including Road Maintenance, Housing, Burial Grounds, Water Services, Planning Clinics, Motor Tax, as well as operation of the Council's Machinery Yard & Bitumen Depot.

### Roads: Newcastle West 2011

Expenditure on maintenance and improvement works in Newcastle West Roads Area in 2011 was financed by way of Government Grants, and the Councils' own resources.

#### Road expenditure programmes included:-

- Major road surface overlay on the N21 at Cullenagh, Newcastle West.
- Road strengthening and surface dressing schemes on regional and local roads.
- Road overlays at Feenagh Village and Athea Village.
- Upgrading of bridge at Abbeyfeale.
- Footpath upgrading at Newcastlewest, Dromcollogher.
- Local Improvement Schemes.
- Smart Travel Projects: Upgrade pedestrians crossing in Abbeyfeale and Newcastle West.
- Upgrade local bridges : Abbeyfeale, Ardagh and Broadford.

#### Specific Improvement Grants

- Major development works on Mart bridge Abbeyfeale.

#### OPW Flooding Works

Major development works at Dromcollogher, Broadford, Feenagh, Monagea, Strand, Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale.

#### Smart Travel Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale

Upgrade of existing pedestrian crossings in Abbeyfeale and Newcastle West. Construction of new footpath at Sheehan's Road in Newcastle West.

### IBAL Anti-Litter League 2011

Newcastle West was selected by IBAL (Irish Business Against Litter) as one of 53 towns/cities throughout Ireland to take part in a National Litter Survey during 2011. Surveys were conducted throughout the year, Newcastle West finished in 32nd place and was judged to be "Clean to European Norms".

### Demesne, Newcastle West

This public amenity continues to increase in popularity, with large numbers enjoying the facilities. In 2011, a new addition to the Demesne was the installation of exercise equipment throughout the facility which is proving very popular. This equipment was funded under the Sports Capital Grants.

### Housing

#### Housing Grants Scheme

19 Applications under the Housing Adaptation Grants for People with a Disability were approved in 2011 at a cost of €212,501.36.

30 Applications under the Mobility Aids Housing Grants were approved in 2011 at a cost of €115,191.74.

75 Applications under the Housing Aid for Older People were approved in 2011 at a cost of €466,552.02.

### Water Services

The Newcastle West Area Office operates and maintains a large number of water and sewerage schemes throughout West Limerick. These include modern water treatment plants at Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale, which are two of the largest towns in the County, and between them produce in the region of 1.5 million gallons of water per day.

### Machinery Yard

In keeping with its modernisation policy, the Machinery Yard Section has in 2011, further enhanced its fleet with the procurement of 1 Low Loader trailer and 1 Towed Velocity Patching Unit. The cost of the replacement equipment was €38,275. The above procurement of quality second hand plant ensures that the Machinery Yard Section continues to maintain a very modern fleet to effectively service the road works operations across the county. It is intended to implement the next phase of the 5 year rolling replacement programme as soon as the economic situation improves.

### Ballingrane Bitumen Depot

The Bitumen Depot at Ballingrane continues to play a central role in the Road Works Programme with all bitumen used in the county distributed through this central depot. The 2011 total output of 917,030 gallons was up on the 2010 figure of 772,050 gallons mainly due to a 19% increase in road restoration and surface

dressing operations.

### Motor Taxation

The Motor Taxation Section in Newcastle West had takings of almost €6m in 2011. The number of transactions was 32,644 which was an increase on the 2010 figures.



## Rathkeale Area

The Rathkeale Office provides a range of engineering and administrative services to the Rathkeale Area which include road improvement and maintenance, water & waste-water services, housing and customer services.

### Area Committee Meetings

The Rathkeale Area Committee held 17 meetings during 2011, which were held generally in the Council Offices, Rathkeale.

### Roads

Substantial improvement works were undertaken during the year to the Area roads network, with expenditure in excess of €3.7m. These works included road strengthening, surface dressing, macadam overlays, roadway lining, new and replacement signage, road drainage and general road maintenance. Extensive salting of roads was carried out during the winter months, particularly to the national roads, N21 & N69, as well as the major Regional roads in the area.

Road strengthening and improvement works were completed on various Regional and Local roads including R518 Rathkeale-Ballingarry road; Old N21 in Rathkeale; Main St. in Glin; Newbridge; Derreen; Main St. in Shanagolden; Cappagh; Ballyguilteneane and others. Surface dressing works were

completed on many Regional and Local roads as well during the year including at Five Cross Roads in Rathkeale; Kilscannell; Ballynash; Ballingarry; Creeves; Knockfinnisk; etc. A major road improvement scheme, including drainage, strengthening and widening was carried out on the R523 Regional Road between Carrigkerry and Athea. Other road projects included the provision of a Pedestrian Crossing at Scoil Mhuire school in Askeaton; provision of footpath and disabled parking space at Loghill and major bridge reconstruction/repair works at Clounlehard and Loghill bridges.

Road safety works were completed at Ardtomin on the Rathkeale to Askeaton road and at Kilfergus, Glin. A section of the Great Southern Cycling Trail was improved at Coolybrown.

### Housing

The Council housing section carries out maintenance and improvement works to its stock of houses.

A budget of approx €256,000 was allocated in 2011 for the maintenance of, and improvements to, the Rathkeale Area's existing housing stock and Residential Caravan site.

The Council also processes the various Housing Aid Grants, ie Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme for People with a Disability; Housing Aid for Older People Scheme; and the Mobility Aids Grant

Scheme. A total of approx €546,000 was dispersed in these grants during the year, covering a total of 74 grants. During the year a total of 31 Council owned houses had energy upgrade works completed, of which 24 were casual vacancies and 7 were long term voids. These works achieved significant energy efficiencies in the houses involved and improved their BER Energy Rating.

### Water Services

The Council operates and maintains many water and waste-water schemes throughout the area. Included in this is the Shannon Estuary Water Supply Scheme, which is the County's largest water supply scheme, producing in excess of 4 million gallons of potable water per day. This plant operates to ISO Standard and supplies water to the Aughinish Alumina Plant as well as the surrounding hinterland, including Askeaton, Foynes, Shanagolden, Pallaskenry, Kildimo, Morgans, Creeves and Ballysteen. The Council also operates and maintains wastewater treatment plants at the larger towns and villages such as; Rathkeale, Askeaton, Ballingarry, Croom, etc.

An overall budget of approx €2m was allocated to the operation and maintenance of these water and wastewater schemes in the Area in 2011.

Significant difficulties arose in the operation of water supplies throughout the area due to the extremely cold weather, particularly in the month of January. The Council carries out maintenance and some improvement works to Burial Grounds in the Rathkeale area. A major conservation project was undertaken at the Burial Ground at Croagh where the old church walls were repaired and preserved.

### Environmental Services

Recycling facilities are located in the following towns and villages:

- Askeaton
- Ballingarry
- Foynes
- Loghill
- Pallaskenry - Copsewood College
- Rathkeale - New Line
- Shanagolden

Facilities include the re-cycling of glass, bottles and jars, food and drink cans.

The Council undertakes street cleaning works at many towns and villages, with the use of a mechanical suction sweeper as well as manual cleaning. Major clean-ups are organised on a regular basis, including at the following locations: Rathkeale Town, Foynes, Ballingarry, Glin, Askeaton and on N21 and N69 routes as well as on approaches to various towns and villages.

### Lifeguard Service

Temporary lifeguards and pier attendants were employed at both Glin and Killeery Piers during the 2011 summer bathing period.

### Playgrounds & Playing Pitches

The Council are actively encouraging and financing the development of playgrounds and pitches throughout the County. Plans were finalised for the construction of a new childrens playground in the Town of Rathkeale – to be located in the green area at St Mary's Park. Construction is due to commence early in 2012. Upgrading works were completed to the mini-pitch located near Abbeycourt, Rathkeale, where the side panels were replaced.

### Arts Centre

An Arts Centre is operational as part of the Rathkeale Area Headquarters, at "Áras Seán Finn", New Line Road, Rathkeale. This venue hosted many and varied arts related events during the year, including drama, painting exhibitions, music, etc. These events are booked and overseen by the Council Arts Office.

**Summary of Presentations by the Rathkeale Electoral Area Committee at the May Electoral Area Committee Meeting 2011.**  
Presentation to Shannonside Football Club, Askeaton for winning the Limerick Desmond Schoolboys League U16 Division 3.

Presentation to St Marys Athletics Club Rathkeale for their achievements at the All Ireland Athletics Championships 2010.

Presentation to Barry McGrath from Ballingarry, Co Limerick for saving the lives of three people at Clonea, Waterford in 2010.



# appendix 1

## Conferences/Seminars Attended

Date	Title	Venue	No. Of Attendees
14th to 16th January	European Legislation on Human Rights, Irish Legislation and Irish Case Law	The Kingsvalley Hotel, Dublin Rd, Galway City	5
21st to 23rd January	Compliance with Planning Permission Enforcement of Conditions of Planning Professional Indemnity Insurance and Bonds	The Kingsvalley Hotel, Dublin Rd, Galway City	3
21st to 23rd January	Volcanic Ash, Major Flooding, Freezing Spells, Crises Impacts on Ireland	Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co Donegal	4
28th to 30th January	Local Authority Water Supply	The Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	3
4th to 6th February	Renewable Heat Incentive	The Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	2
4th to 6th March	A Practical Guide to Media Skills for Councillors	The Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co Cork	1
11th & 12th February	AMAI (Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland) Spring Seminar 2011	Westlodge Hotel, Bantry, Co Cork	1
18th to 20th February	Charities Act 2009 Implications for the Voluntary Sector	Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co Kerry	1
18th to 20th February	Strategic Planning for Councillors Increasing Productivity & Adding Value to Local Communities	Castlecourt Hotel, Westport, Co Mayo	1
3rd to 5th March	9th National Tourism Conference : A River Runs Through it – Exploring Heritage, Adventure and Tourism Opportunities for Ireland’s Waterways	The Seven Oaks Hotel, Athy Road, Carlow	1
4th to 6th March	Employment Law & Insurance Issues	The Kingsvalley Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway	5
11th to 13th March	The Local Government Planning Service	Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co Donegal	3
18th to 20th March	Effective Time & Priority Management	Carrickdale Hotel, Carrickarnon, Dundalk, Co Louth	1
18th to 20th March	Equal Status Legislation and its effect on service provision in Local Authorities	Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo	4
24th & 25th March	Association of County and City Councils Annual Conference	Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly	6
25th to 27th March	Changing Trends in Drug & Alcohol Abuse	Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co Donegal	3
26th March	The 1916 Rebellion Conference	Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford	1
1st April	NFLA (Nuclear Free Local Authorities) Spring Seminar Key Nuclear Policy Issues for Irish Local Authorities 2011	The Boardroom, Council Offices, O’Hagan House, Monaghan Row, Newry, Co. Down	1
1st to 3rd April	How to Be an Effective Chairperson	The Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork	2
7th to 10th April	Rattoo Heritage Society 20th Annual Kerry Environmental Conference	Meadowlands Hotel, Oakpark, Tralee, Co. Kerry	2
15th April	Planning and Development (Amendment) Act, 2010	Athlone IT, Douglas Hyde Lecture Theatre	4



Conferences/Seminars Attended			
Date	Title	Venue	No. Of Attendees
15th to 17th April	Professional Development for Councillors How to Master Your Time	Best Western Sligo Southern Hotel, Sligo	1
15th to 17th April	The Good Friday Agreement Local Government North and South	The Kingsvalley Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway	2
29th & 30th April	LAMA (Local Authority Members Association) Spring Seminar – Economic Revival : A Role for Local Government	Fairways Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth	3
6th & 7th May	Programme for Government & Local Government	City North Hotel, Gormanstown, Co. Meath	2
12 & 13th May	IRL (Irish Rural Link) Keeping Jobs in Rural Communities	Hotel Castlepollard, Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath	3
13th to 15th May	European Influences on Local Government in Ireland	The Kingsvalley Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway	2
20th & 21st May	National Public Policy Making and the Councillor	Carlton Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co. Wexford	3
27th May	Southern & Eastern Regional Assembly Promoting Sustainable Transport	Mermaid Arts Centre, Bray, Co. Wicklow	2
27th to 29th May	Exploring Local Government Reform Lessons to be Learned from the Private Sector	The Kingsvalley Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway	8
27th to 29th May	Procurement Expenditure and Revenues in Local Government	The Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co Donegal	1
3rd to 5th June	Renewable Energy Local Government Can Make A Difference	Mill Park Hotel, The Mullins, Donegal Town	7
10th to 12th June	Indemnity from Liability of Decisions of the Body Corporate	The Kingsvalley Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway	2
17th to 19th June	European Union Funding & Functions	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, West Cork	2
17th to 19th June	Sean Mac Diarmada Summer School 2011 Emigration, Migration & The Irish Diaspora	Kiltyclogher, Co. Leitrim	1
17th to 19th June	The Challenges and Opportunities facing Local Government, Irish Business and the Irish People	Carlton Hotel Tralee, Co. Kerry	1
8th to 10th July	Time Management, Media & IT Skills	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, West Cork	1
8th to 10th July	Effective Representations through Radio, TV, Press, Facebook, Twitter	Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal	2
13th to 15th July	3rd International Percy French Summer School	Castlecoote House, Castlecoote, Co. Roscommon	1
15th to 17th July	Irish Language Course for Councillors	Seaview Hotel, Gweedore, Co. Donegal	1
24th to 29th July	MacGill Summer School 2011	Glenties, Co. Donegal	5
24th to 29th July	24th John Hewitt International Summer School	Market Place Theatre & Arts Centre, Armagh	1
29th to 31st July	Local Government Health & Safety, Risk Assessment and Insurance	Kingsvalley Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway	1

Conferences/Seminars Attended			
Date	Title	Venue	No. Of Attendees
1st to 4th August	20th William Carleton Summer School	Corick House Hotel, Clogher	2
12th & 13th August	The Local Government Planning Service	West Cork Hotel, Skibereen, Co Cork	1
12th to 14th August	Legislation for the reform of Local Government	Westport Plaza Hotel, Co. Mayo	5
14th to 19th August	2011 Parnell Summer School – Equality, Then & Now	Avondale House, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow	2
2nd to 4th Sept.	Personal Development Skills	Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal	2
2nd to 4th Sept.	Enhancing Promotional Material & MS Office Troubleshooting	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, West Cork	2
8th to 10th Sept.	AMAI (Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland) 98th Annual Conference	Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim, Co. Meath	1
9th to 11th Sept.	Domestic Water Meters for Ireland	Carrickdale Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth	3
22nd September	SEAI (Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland) Wind Energy 2011 – Planning, Policy and the Environment	Bewley’s Hotel, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4	1
23rd to 25th Sept.	Na Blascaodai agus na hEalaiona	Ionad and Bhlascaoid Mhoir, Dun Chaoin, Co. Chiarrai	1
23rd & 24th Sept.	LAMA (Local Authority Members Association Autumn Seminar 2011 – The Role of Tourism in Economic Recovery	Clonea Strand Hotel, Dungarvan	2
23rd to 25th Sept.	Effective Representation for your Constituents	Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry	1
30th September	European Waste Water Laws Irish Governments decision to License Septic Tanks	Mill Park Hotel, The Mullins, Donegal Town	1
6th to 7th October	Getting a Grip 2011- Substance Misuse A Health or Criminal Justice Issue?	The Europe Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry	2
7th to 9th October	New Government Regulations and How they Affect the Domestic Home	Kingsvalley Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway	2
14th & 15th October	Victims of Crime – The Cost to the Community	Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co Kerry	1
14th to 16th October	Developing Leadership – 21 ways to win with People	Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo	1
14th to 16th October	Social Housing Assessment Regulations 2011	Carlton Atlantic Coast Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo	7
21st to 23rd October	The Role of the Regional Authority in the Operation of and Policy Making in Local Government	Kingsvalley Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway	1
22nd to 24th October	Optimising Taxation Allowances & Benefits & Revenue On-Line Service Workshop	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, West Cork	5
3rd November	C.I.L.T.I. (Chartered Institute of Logistics & Transport Ireland) Conference on Rural Transport Policy & Strategy	LIT – Tipperary, Thurles, Co. Tipperary	1
4th to 6th November	Local Government Powers to Create/Abolish Rights of Way	Kingsvalley Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway	3



Conferences/Seminars Attended

Date	Title	Venue	No. Of Attendees
11th to 13th Nov.	Strategic Planning for 2012	Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise, Co. Laois	4
18th to 20th Nov.	Local Authority's Role in Preventing Water Pollution	Mill Park Hotel, The Mullins, Donegal Town	1
18th to 20th Nov.	The Local Government Budget 2012	Carlton Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co. Wexford	6
18th to 20th Nov.	Modern Alternatives to the Extinction of Fossil Fuels	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, West Cork	1
25th & 26th Nov.	Renewable Energy 20-20-20 Transforming Ireland Into a Highly Energy – Efficient, Low Carbon Economy	Lucan Spa Hotel, Lucan, Co. Dublin	1
2nd to 4th December	Promoting Volunteerism	Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo	1
6th to 8th December	Public Sector Expenditure, Where is Ireland Spending above the Odds?	Kingsvalley Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway	1
9th to 11th December	Water Services (Amendment) Bill 2011	Carlton Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co. Wexford	1
9th to 11th December	Proposed Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy	Carlton Hotel Tralee, Co. Kerry	2
9th to 11th December	Microsoft Office Applications & Revenue On-Line Service Workshops	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, West Cork	1
16th to 18th December	Local Government (Charges) Act 2009	Kingsvalley Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway	1

appendix 2  
organisational  
chart

