



COMHAIRLE | CLARE  
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

8 Deireadh Fómhair, 2025.

## DON CHATHAOIRLEACH AGUS DO GACH BALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

Leis seo, iarraim ort, le do thoil, a bheith i láthair ag Cruinniú Míosúil na Comhairle a thionólfar ar **Dé Luain, an 13 Deireadh Fómhair, 2025 AR 3:00 i.n. i SEOMRA NA COMHAIRLE, ÁRAS CONTAE AN CHLÁIR, INIS agus via ardán MS Teams.** Thíos faoi seo, gheofar sonraí den ghnó a dhéanfar ag an gcruinniú.

Iarrtar ort a bheith i láthair.

Mise le meas,

Riarthóir Cruinnithe

**TABHAIR FAOI DEARA:** Cruinniú  
faisnéise ó Eirgrid ag 2pm

**NOTE:** Briefing by Eirgrid at 2p.m.

## CLÁR OIBRE - AGENDA

1) Miontuairiscí na Cruinnithe seo leanas den Chomhairle.

1) Minutes of the following Council meeting.

(a) Miontuairiscí Chruinniú mí Meán Fómhair, a tionóladh ar an 8 Meán Fómhair 2025.

(a) Minutes of September monthly meeting held on 8 September 2025.

(b) Miontuairiscí Chruinniú mí Meán Fómhair a cuireadh ar atráth, a tionóladh ar an 15 Meán Fómhair 2025.

(b) Minutes of adjourned September meeting held on 15 September 2025.

(c) Miontuairiscí Chruinniú Speisialta a tionóladh ar an 22 Meán Fómhair 2025.

(c) Minutes of the Special meeting held on the 22 September 2025.

2. Matters Arising.

2. Nithe ag éirí as.

### 3. Comhfhreagras/Correspondence.

4. Minutes of Municipal District Meetings.

4. Miontuairiscí cruinnithe Ceantar Bardasach

(a) Ennis Municipal District meeting held on 8 July 2025.

(a) Cruinniú Ceantar Bardasach na hInse a tionóladh ar an 8 Iúil 2025.

(b) Killaloe Municipal District meeting held on 16 July 2025.

(b) Cruinniú Cheantar Bardasach Chill Dalua a tionóladh an 16 Iúil 2025.

(c) Shannon Municipal District meeting held on 15 July, 2025.

(c) Cruinniú Ceantar Bardasach na Sionnainne a tionóladh ar an 15 Iúil, 2025.

(d) West Clare Municipal District meeting held on 15 July, 2025.

(d) Cruinniú Ceantar Bardasach Iarthar an Chláir a tionóladh ar an 15 Iúil, 2025.

5. Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee Meetings.

5. Miontuairiscí Chruinnithe na gCoistí Beartais Straitéisigh.

(a) Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on 25 April, 2025.

(a) Cruinniú Coiste Beartais Straitéisigh um Fhorbairt Eacnamaíoch a tionóladh ar an 25 Aibreán, 2025.

(b) Economic Development Special Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on 24 June, 2025.

(b) Cruinniú Coiste Speisialta Beartais Straitéisigh um Fhorbairt Eacnamaíoch a tionóladh ar an 24 Meitheamh, 2025.

- (c) Social Development Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on 4 June, 2025.
- (c) Cruinniú an Choiste Beartais Straitéisigh um Fhorbairt Shóisialta a tionóladh an 4 Meitheamh 2025.

6. Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 1 September, 2025.
6. Cruinniú Grúpa Polasaí Corparáideach a tionóladh ar an 1 Meán Fómhair, 2025.
7. Monthly Management Report.
8. Disposal of land at No. 1 The Crescent, Miltown Malbay, Co. Clare pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000.
9. Disposal of land at Tullyvarraga, Co. Clare pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000.
10. Disposal of land at Drumbiggle Road, Co. Clare pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000.
11. Report in accordance with Part XI, Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and Part VIII, Article 80 and 81 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001-2013 for the proposed development at N85/Shanaway Road Junction, Clareen, Ennis, Co. Clare.
12. Overdraft Approval 2026.
13. Agree date for Budget meeting - proposed date Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 3.00p.m
14. Milwaukee Review Report 2025.
15. Briefing from Eirgrid at 2.00p.m.
16. **Curtha faoi bhráid na Comhairle ag Cllrs. M. Howard, P. O’Gorman agus A. O’Callaghan (Deferred from the September meeting):-**

“Clare County Council request both Minister for Finance, Mr. Pascal Donohue and Minister for Equality Ms. Norma Foley address the current legal anomaly regarding inheritance laws for those without children. Over one million Irish citizens are childless, the current inheritance laws are inequitable and discriminatory and are skewed against childless people, with prohibitive tax obligations.”

**17. Curtha faoi bhráid na Comhairle ag Cllr. R. Hartigan:-**

“That we would invite representatives from AirNav and Shannon Airport to brief the Council on the issues the industry is facing with regards to onshore windfarms planned in the county.”

**18. Curtha faoi bhráid na Comhairle ag Cllr. I. Lynch:-**

“Clare County Council requests that the Minister for Education initiate an immediate review of the provision of additional needs placements in primary and secondary schools. This review should ensure the availability of appropriate and sufficient spaces for all students with additional needs within County Clare. The scope of the review should encompass both current capacity and projected future requirements, particularly addressing the transition of students from primary to secondary education. Furthermore, the review should prioritize the provision of adequate facilities and staffing levels within the local area to minimize the burden of travel on families.”

**19. Curtha faoi bhráid na Comhairle ag Cllr. A. Baker Bashua:-**

“That Clare County Council requests that the Department of Education and the Minister for Education urgently intervene to resolve the issues arising from the NCSE’s SNA Review Guidelines and to protect the essential work of SNAs in our schools.

Clare County Council requests the Minister to call for:

- The immediate redrafting of the NCSE’s SNA Review Guidelines,
- An emergency meeting with the NCSE,
- The removal of all non-essential paperwork requirements,
- A pause on the review deadline pending consultation,
- A review of Circular 30/2014, and
- The publication of the revised Assault Leave Circular.

These measures are essential to ensure that Special Needs Assistants can continue their vital work in schools without unnecessary administrative burdens, safeguarding the education and wellbeing of students who rely on their support.”

**20. Curtha faoi bhráid na Comhairle ag Cllrs. J. Garrihy, T. Mulcahy agus J. Crowe:-**

“That this Council resolves to prioritise the development of housing solutions for the aging population in County Clare, with a specific focus on those living alone in isolated rural areas.

This Council notes that:

The most recent Census highlights a significant challenge in rural areas of Clare, particularly in the North and West, where high levels of isolated living among the aging population are evident. There is a pressing need for innovative housing solutions that cater to the unique needs of older people, enabling them to live independently and safely. This Council calls on the relevant departments and agencies to:

1. Develop models of independent living housing that incorporate support services, community engagement, and accessible design.
2. Incorporate mixed housing types in future developments, including age-friendly and accessible units.
3. Prioritise the needs of older people living alone in isolated areas, ensuring that housing solutions are tailored to their specific requirements.

That this Council further resolves to:

- Work with relevant stakeholders, including community groups, healthcare providers, and approved housing bodies, to deliver innovative and responsive housing solutions.
- Conduct a comprehensive review of existing housing stock and infrastructure to identify opportunities for adaptation and retrofitting.
- Develop a Clare-specific strategy for aging-in-place, incorporating the needs and preferences of older people.

By passing this motion, Clare County Council can demonstrate its commitment to supporting the aging population and addressing the unique challenges faced by older people in rural areas.”

**21. Curtha faoi bhráid na Comhairle ag Cllr. S. Talty:-**

“Clare County Council requests that the TII ensure that the N85 realignment project (Ennis to Inagh) be recommenced, and project development funding be allocated in the 2026 roads budget. The motion be copied to Clare Oireachtas members.”

**22. Curtha faoi bhráid na Comhairle ag Cllr. G. Keating:-**

“Recognising the impact of rural depopulation on small GAA clubs in Clare, and the need to focus on growing the rural population in the county, thus increasing the vibrancy of local communities. I wish to ask has Clare County Council engaged with Clare GAA on this matter as part of the new Chief Executive’s commitment to an increased focus on Housing Activation.”

**23. Curtha faoi bhráid na Comhairle ag Cllrs. T. Guilfoyle, J. Ryan, M. Begley, D. Gould agus I. Lynch:-**

“Clare County Council warmly welcomes the publication of the HIQA Review into urgent and emergency care services in the HSE Mid-West. This comprehensive report highlights the significant inpatient bed capacity shortfall and the pressing patient safety risks facing the region, particularly at University Hospital Limerick (UHL). We recognize the extensive work of HIQA, the Economic and Social Research Institute, community campaigners, healthcare staff, and elected representatives who have tirelessly advocated for improvements in healthcare provision for the people of Clare and the wider Mid-West.

The Council acknowledges the three options outlined by HIQA to address this critical capacity challenge, including expanding UHL’s current site, developing a second campus nearby, and constructing a new Model 3 hospital. While short-term solutions are urgently needed to alleviate immediate pressures, Clare County Council affirms that only the establishment of a new Model 3 or 4 hospital in Ennis can sustainably meet the growing demand for urgent and emergency care in the coming decades. This is vital given the current inequity, with many Clare residents facing long travel times to emergency departments and the region having the lowest number of Model 3 hospital beds nationally.

Therefore, Clare County Council calls on the Government to commit without delay to the planning, funding, and construction of a new Model 3 or 4 hospital in Ennis. This investment is essential to secure equitable, safe, and timely healthcare access for the people of Clare and the wider Mid-West region. We further request that this motion be communicated to the Minister for Health, the HSE, and Oireachtas members representing the region to ensure coordinated progress on this urgent healthcare priority.”

**24. Curtha faoi bhráid na Comhairle ag Cllrs. A. Baker Bashua, D. Griffin, M. Shannon, R. McInerney, R. Hartigan, P. Daly, P. Hayes, J. Killeen, T. O' Callaghan, T. O'Brien, S. Talty agus C. Collieran Molloy:-**

“That Clare County Council calls on the Minister for Health to ensure that the new hospital recommended in the HIQA review of emergency healthcare services in the Midwest is located in County Clare.

- The recent HIQA report has confirmed that conditions at University Hospital Limerick (UHL) are unsafe, with persistent overcrowding and risks to patient safety.
- A new hospital in Clare would directly address this crisis by providing safe, modern, and adequately resourced acute care for the Midwest region.
- Clare is centrally located within the Midwest, ensuring equitable access for patients from Clare, Limerick, Tipperary, and surrounding counties.
- The county offers excellent transport connectivity via the M18 motorway, Shannon Airport, and regional rail links, making it the most accessible site for a regional hospital.
- Unlike the constrained UHL site, Clare has sufficient land available for a purpose-built, future-proofed facility with space for expansion to meet long-term demand.
- Locating the hospital in Clare would also support balanced regional development in line with the National Planning Framework, preventing further overconcentration of critical infrastructure in one city.

While HIQA has recommended a Model 3 hospital for the Midwest, many of us on Clare County Council feel that this does not go far enough to address the scale of the crisis in emergency healthcare provision. The people of this region deserve nothing less than a fully resourced, future-proofed Model 4 hospital. We therefore call for that hospital to be located in County Clare, where the infrastructure, land availability, and central location make it the most suitable and sustainable option to deliver safe and effective healthcare for the entire Midwest.”

**25. Curtha faoi bhráid na Comhairle ag Cllr. J. Killeen:-**

“We call on Clare County Council, State Agencies and our Oireachtas Members to further progress the provision of support for females in sport and recreation to bring about resultant improvements in health and wellbeing.”

**26. Curtha faoi bhráid na Comhairle ag Cllr. M. Howard:-**

“Clare County Council request that the HSE and NSAC (National Screening Advisory Committee) extend the BreastCheck service to women aged 40-74 as per the European Guidelines on Breast Cancer Screening.

Also, we request the HSE to roll out an educational programme advising women and men on effective self-check procedures.”

**27. Curtha faoi bhráid na Comhairle ag Cllr. D. Gould:-**

“Is it possible for Clare County Council to explore an opportunity to boost tourism in West Clare and capitalise on Moneypoint port. Could we utilise the deep-sea water port to attract cruise ships to dock and explore our Wild Atlantic Way in West Clare?

In the past I have seen big cruise ships dock in Foynes and are then bussed via Limerick to Bunratty and North Clare, is this something we can investigate with the use of Moneypoint now that we no longer have coal ships docking.”

**28. Curtha faoi bhráid na Comhairle ag Cllr. J. Ryan:-**

“To ask Clare County Council to ensure all newly changed speed limits on Clare roads also correspond with Google Maps.”

**29. Curtha faoi bhráid na Comhairle ag Cllr. J. Garrihy:-**

“I call on Clare County Council to ensure that our county and communities are fully prepared and "Winter Ready" to deal with any extreme weather events similar to those experienced over the last number of years.

To achieve this, I request that Clare County Council:

1. Conduct a comprehensive review of emergency response plans to identify areas for improvement.
2. Develop and implement robust measures to mitigate the impact of extreme weather events on infrastructure, communities, and essential services.
3. Provide training and resources to council staff, emergency responders, and community volunteers to ensure effective response and recovery efforts.
4. Engage with local communities, agencies, and stakeholders to raise awareness about emergency preparedness and response plans.

**Communication and Outreach**

To ensure that our communities are informed and prepared, we request that Clare County Council:

1. Develop a clear communication plan to inform the public about emergency response procedures and protocols.
2. Establish a dedicated webpage or platform to provide updates on weather alerts, road conditions, and emergency response efforts.
3. Engage with community groups, schools, and local organizations to promote emergency preparedness and provide resources for vulnerable populations.

To ensure effective response and recovery efforts, we request that Clare County Council:

1. Develop and regularly update emergency response plans that account for various weather-related scenarios.
2. Identify and designate emergency shelters and warming centres for vulnerable populations.
3. Establish protocols for emergency communication, resource allocation, and coordination with emergency services.

**Implementation and Review**

To ensure the effectiveness of these measures, we request that Clare County Council:

1. Establish a working group to oversee the implementation of winter preparedness measures.
2. Conduct regular reviews and updates of emergency response plans and procedures.
3. Provide annual reports to the council on winter preparedness and response efforts.

By passing this motion, we can ensure that Clare County Council is proactive in preparing for and responding to extreme weather events, protecting the safety and well-being of our communities.”

**30. Curtha faoi bhráid na Comhairle ag Cllr. R. McInerney:-**

“That Clare County Council publish a report on the update to the Clare Emergency Management Plan, incorporating the key learnings from Storm Éowyn. This report should specifically address: (i) how inter-agency coordination could be strengthened as required, (ii) how communication with the public might be improved, and (iii) the role of elected members in reporting and escalating community issues during weather-related emergencies.

Storm Éowyn caused significant disruption across Clare, particularly in rural areas where prolonged power outages, blocked roads, and communications failures left many households vulnerable. In light of the increasing frequency of extreme weather events due to climate change, it is vital that the Council demonstrates how it is applying these lessons to future preparedness.

The updated plan should be aligned with the National Emergency Management Framework and the Council’s Climate Adaptation Strategy. It should also include a clear public-facing summary so that households and community groups understand the steps to take, and the contacts available, in the event of future emergencies.

Finally, the report should set out a defined protocol for how Councillors, as first points of contact for many residents, can efficiently escalate local issues to the relevant Council sections and external agencies, with timelines and feedback mechanisms built in. An annual awareness campaign to inform the public and community organisations of emergency protocols should also be considered.”

**31. Curtha faoi bhráid na Comhairle ag Cllr. M. Shannon:-**

“I call on Clare County Council to secure funding for physical infrastructure improvements to roads, footpaths, lighting, signage and all other ancillaries to ensure Clare's unique and beautiful image is portrayed around the world during the Irish Open in Doonbeg next September.”