Kilkee Town Council

Annual Report 2005

2005 has been a very eventful year for Kilkee Town Council. Over the past year the council has worked with local community groups such as the Tidy Towns Committee and Chamber of Commerce on a number of initiatives to improve the quality of life throughout the community. Kilkee Town Council as a local authority has fulfilled its role in relation to community identity, civic tradition and the provision of a democratic system of local government for Kilkee. The council has also worked in partnership with Clare County Council to make Kilkee a better place to live, work and visit. Some of the benefits achieved by this partnership approach include the retention of the Blue Flag status for Kilkee and the continuation of a footpath improvement programme.

Urban & Village Renewal Projects

In 2005 funding was provided under the Urban & Village Renewal Programme for 2005-2006 for the development of a public park at Allenders Field, in the sum of €200,000 and landscaping improvements at Hodges Green, in the sum of €100,000.

Following extensive consultation between members of Kilkee Town Council and the Kilrush Electoral Area Committee of Clare County Council as well as local residents, proposals for the public park at Allenders Field were agreed. The design of the park will take advantage of the site's varied topography and use this to create key spaces and views across the site. There will be open areas of cut grass for recreation and provision of longer grass areas for visual amenity and wildlife benefit. A network of footpaths will be provided as well as a footbridge over the stream. Benches for rest and relaxation with key views and low-level lighting will also be provided. There are also proposals for the provision of a public art space and two play areas.

A design for landscaping improvements in Hodges Green was also formulated following public consultation. The design provides for paving and surface upgrading to a footpath traversing the green area with low level lighting incorporated into the footpath, new low level stone walling, landscaping improvements including the introduction of a planting scheme and the provision of stone benches.

Both projects are to commence in early 2006.

Kilkee Traffic Management Plan

In response to requests to address a number of traffic problems brought to the fore by members of Kilkee Town Council, a comprehensive traffic management plan was drawn up. The objective of the traffic management plan is to regularise traffic movements and parking within the town.

The plan provides for a number of traffic calming measures including the provision of pedestrian crossings. Some streets will be restricted to one way traffic movements, signage is to be improved and car parking spaces are to be increased.

The traffic management plan has gone through a comprehensive public consultation process and is to be formally adopted in early 2006.

Highlights for 2005

- At the Annual General Meeting of Kilkee Town Council held on June 20th, 2005 Cllr. Michael Martin was elected as Mayor, succeeding Cllr. Claire Haugh. Cllr. Michael McGrath was elected as Vice-Mayor.

- A contribution of €2,500 was allocated to the Kilkee Tidy Towns Committee to enable them to continue their excellent work. The efforts of the committee in 2005 resulted in an increase of 7 points from 2004, to 246 points in the National Tidy Towns Competition.

- The Kilkee website www.kilkee.ie which was officially launched in June 2004 to promote Kilkee on the world wide web from a business & tourism perspective while maintaining a strong community focus has proved to be an extremely beneficial for the town. During 2005 there was a total of 80,826 successful hits on the entire site, averaging at 221 hits per day.