Kilkee Town Council Annual Report 2006

2006 has been a very eventful year for Kilkee Town Council. Over the past year the council has continued to work with local community groups such as the Tidy Towns Committee and the Chamber of Commerce on initiatives to improve the quality of life throughout the community.

Kilkee Town Council, as a local authority, has fully 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 beach and the progress made on the provision of amenity areas such as Allenders Field and Hodges Green.

Urban & Village Renewal Projects

In 2005 funding was approved under the Urban & Village Renewal Programme for the development of a public park at Allenders Field and the upgrading of the open space at Hodges Green.

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 park has been designed to take advantage of the site's varied topography and facilitate the creation of key spaces and views across the site. Open areas of cut grass are provided for recreation purposes with longer grass areas provided for visual amenity and wildlife benefit. A network of footpaths are provided as well as a footbridge over the stream. Benches for rest and relaxation with key views and low-level lighting are also provided for in the approved design proposal.

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. It provides for a new low level stone wall, landscaping improvements including the introduction of a planting scheme and the provision of stone benches.

Both of these key projects commenced in 2006 and were well advanced by the end of the year. Allenders Field is due for completion in March 2007 with Hodges Green due to completion prior to summer 2007.

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 by the road design section of Clare County Council. The objective of the traffic management plan is to regularise traffic movements and parking within the town.

The traffic management plan went through a comprehensive public consultation process in 2005 and 2006 and was formally adopted by Clare County Council in November 2006.

Highlights for 2006

- At the Annual General Meeting of Kilkee Town Council held on June 12th, 2006, Cllr. Claire Haugh was elected as Mayor, succeeding Cllr. Michael Martin. Cllr. P.J. Lardner was elected as Vice-Mayor.
- A contribution of €2,500 was allocated to Kilkee Tidy Towns Committee to support the ongoing tidy towns effort. A contribution of €800 was allocated to Kilkee Chamber of Commerce committee to assist with the provision of Christmas Lighting in the town. A contribution of €200 was also made to the Irish Water Safety Association.
- The Kilkee website www.kilkee.ie, officially launched in June 2004, continued to promote Kilkee on the world wide web from a business & tourism perspective while also maintaining a strong community focus. The website continues to provide access to agendas, minutes and publications of Kilkee Town Council.
- Elected members of Kilkee Town Council adopted a policy for Special Projects in 2006. This policy sets out the procedures to be followed for all special projects on lands in ownership of Kilkee Town Council.