

Shannon

Clare County Community Wellbeing Vision Statement:

Clare is a county that values, protects and restores its unique landscape, environment and biodiversity, where sustainable livelihoods are prioritised for this and future generations and where citizens, migrants, ethnic minorities and people of all abilities, age-groups and genders are able to reach their potential in an atmosphere of support, respect and inclusion, and where Local Government is open, transparent, accountable and committed to reducing poverty and marginalisation within the County; our vision is for a County to be part of and a County to be proud of.

Vision for Community Wellbeing Shannon Municipal District:

Shannon Municipal District Shannon Municipal District is located in southeast County Clare, stretching along the northern shore of the Shannon Estuary from the Newmarket-on-Fergus area in the west to the border with County Limerick in the east. The Municipal District has a population of 26,797 persons and encompasses a large area of the key Limerick-Shannon-Ennis economic corridor.

1. Participation, Democracy and Good Governance

People and communities in the Shannon MD are actively involved in the democratic process and in the decisions that affect their lives. People are equipped and encouraged to participate meaningfully in local government and other decision-making structures, **polling stations and all other buildings or methods of communication used by local and national government are accessible.**

Local government is well funded, fully transparent and accountable. Meetings of Clare County Council, both plenary and committee, are live-streamed over the internet. **The Local Authority and other state bodies are accountable and make decisions in public and willingly share information with each other and their communities. Constituents should have the opportunity to engage directly through town hall style meetings or forums with their elected representatives and the executives of state bodies and organisations providing services in the Shannon MD.**

Genuine public consultation is an integral and fundamental part of Clare County Council's mission. The views of people and community organisations in Clare are actively sought, listened to, valued and incorporated in policy-making.

People are well-informed and equipped to understand democracy and participation, through the school curriculum and also public education. Participation is fostered through local 'town hall' style meetings and community-level forums.

Democratic structures favour the interests of people and communities over those of business, and also ensure that minority voices are represented.

2. Economy, Work and Resources

Shannon MD is a dynamic, attractive place to live, work and visit; sustainable livelihoods are prioritised; workers' rights are protected; and there is high-quality infrastructure, education and amenities.

Locally owned businesses are supported to serve local needs and keep money in the community. People are supported to work locally, through remote working hubs, high-speed broadband, high quality public transport and other infrastructure, resulting in revitalised communities and strong local economies.

Shannon MD communities work together with corporations and multinational businesses to take advantage of the considerable good will available from them towards their host community. This translates into diverse employment practices and local engagement by staff in projects which benefit the community. Supports for small, medium sized and start-up companies are prioritized locally including in small towns and large villages, Nationally, fair taxation policies ensure that there are funds available for local development.

Shannon Airport is an important connection point for tourism and industry in Ireland and is ambitious and innovative in minimizing its carbon emissions.

High quality sustainable housing is available in Shannon MD and planning encourages long term settlement.

There is strong protection for workers' rights and conditions, including family-friendly, flexible working hours, affordable childcare, a decent living wage. Excellent training opportunities are available, especially for people who are unemployed.

3.Environment and Sustainability

Shannon MDs **natural environment, waterways, wetlands, biodiversity** and heritage are valued and protected. Land use and farming are organised in a way that produces affordable, nutritious food, protects the environment and gives farmers and food producers a decent living. Organic food production for local sale is supported. People are educated and encouraged to grow their own food **and space is provided for allotments and beekeeping.**

Biodiversity is protected and promoted, through the planting of native broad-leaved trees, the banning of harmful pesticides and herbicides, reduced use of chemical fertilisers and public green spaces being left unmowed.

A plan is in place to protect and restore the Shannon Estuary for its environmental and amenity value. Flood relief plans consider opportunities for rewilding areas prone to flooding and allowing flooding to take place as well as the construction of flood defences. Clare County Council has dedicated Heritage, Archeology, Biodiversity and Climate Change Officers.

Our electricity is generated from renewable energy. Local and national policy strongly favours community-owned wind energy and microgeneration and all projects should be **developed with community consent. The history and heritage of Ardnacrusha is used to promote renewable energy.** Homes and public buildings are energy efficient.

Car dependency has been greatly reduced through major investment in public transport **including in a rail spur to Shannon Airport and town and the bringing back into use of Cratloe Train station.** Safe accessible cycling and walking routes are available in and between settlements. **Circular Economic models are used and companies located in Shannon MD collaborate to reduce, recycle, reuse and repair. Consumption and waste are both reduced in the community through the use of shared resources. Re-use and recycling are encouraged and facilitated.**

People are empowered to take responsibility for their natural environment through education and initiatives such as community clean-up days and community gardens. **There are educational programmes available locally on history, heritage and the environment.** The climate and biodiversity crises are front and centre in all local authority policy and strategy documents.

4. Health (Physical & Mental)

Everyone in Shannon MD has access to a high standard of affordable, locally-available healthcare – both physical and mental. There is awareness, understanding and support for those dealing with mental health difficulties and addiction. **A system has been put in place so that there is 24 hour and weekend access to emergency mental health supports.**

The role of the natural environment in promoting good health is recognised, and outdoor activities are promoted, including through dedicated cycle and walking paths across the county. Everyone has access to quality recreational facilities and affordable exercise classes to suit all ages.

There are policies and resources in place to reduce isolation and to promote inclusive and supportive communities, including more non-commercial social and meeting spaces and **access to public transport connecting these spaces to all areas of the MD.**

Healthcare provision in Clare is locally informed and available to all. It is accessible by public transport. People with disabilities and special needs are provided with appropriate services and can fully participate in society. Carers are valued and supported to maintain their own quality of life.

5. Social & Community Development

Shannon MD embraces diversity and works to combat isolation and loneliness. inclusion. People of all ages and backgrounds and genders feel involved and integrated in the community.

Safe, well-serviced public spaces and social settings and multi-purpose community buildings (providing workspace, meeting space, consultation rooms and space for social occasions) are accessible to all and served by public transport.

Everyone in Shannon MD has a suitable well insulated home in a safe and well-connected community. Sustainable Social housing is provided in sufficient quantities and is maintained to a high standard.

The MD, County Clare and Limerick City are open to all through free or low cost public transport. From well-resourced pre- schools to third level and apprenticeships every level of lifelong learning is catered for. Community policing works with and for the community and people feel safe in their homes.

Young people from all communities are valued and respected and there are engaging and interesting events, activities and entertainment available for them within the MD.

There are opportunities for intergenerational connections and the full participation of women, disabled people, migrant communities, those marginalized through their sexuality, economic status or ethnicity is sought and facilitated in all community activities and supports wherever possible.

There is also periodic consultation with communities and districts by state agencies and local government to ensure that their needs are being served.

The contribution of voluntary and community groups is recognised and valued, and they are supported and resourced for their work in creating and maintaining inclusive communities.

6. Values, Culture and Meaning

Shannon MD is an equal and diverse community where every person matters. Inclusion and belonging are core values; the value of diversity is promoted. Pride in Irish culture and heritage co-exists with a respect for and acceptance of all cultures and an openness to change.

Our community prides itself on a strong culture of volunteering, community groups and activities neighbourliness. There is active learning between generations. **Community building and community development opportunities are well supported and resourced and this helps to ensure that each generation will have the opportunities to lead fulfilling lives and support themselves through decent work.**

Festivals celebrating Irish heritage and culture as well as inter cultural celebrations are organized to bring together people from different backgrounds and cultures and allow for cultural exchange.

Traditional Irish culture, including language, music, dancing and storytelling, is valued and celebrated. Traditional crafts and skills are promoted and our Irish indigenous, emigrant, and inward migrants' cultures and heritage are recorded and celebrated as we build the future of Shannon Municipal District together.