



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

28th March 2023

Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Cillian Murphy:

“That Clare County Council undertake:-

- a) the research necessary to determine the future maintenance and upgrade costs of playgrounds covered by their insurance to ensure they remain viable operationally.
- b) an overview of the various potential funding streams available, both internally and externally, that might be used to cover those costs”.

I wish to reply as follows:

The analysis requested is an extensive piece of research. This will be undertaken in the months ahead as part of the ongoing inspection regime for Community Playgrounds.

Currently there are 16 Community Playgrounds covered by Clare County Council’s IPB insurance schedule. These have met specific requirements. They include:

- Scarriff
- Cooraclare
- Quin
- Feakle
- Lissycasey
- Kilmihil
- Doolin
- Labasheeda
- Ballyvaughan
- Corofin
- Ballynacally
- Newmarket-on-Fergus
- Miltown Malbay
- Cratloe
- Broadford
- Lisdoonvarna
- Crusheen
- Seanchoill (Parteen)

Roinn Tuaithe agus Pobail
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Áras Contae an Chláir, Bóthar Nua, Inis, Co. an Chláir, V95 DXP2

Rural and Community Department
Rural Development Directorate

Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare, V95 DXP2



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These playgrounds are being inspected routinely by Rural & Community Department and West Clare MD staff to manage the Council's risk. In general, it is reasonable to expect that over 50% of these 16 playgrounds will require the upgrade of one or more pieces of playground equipment in the short to medium term. The replacement of one piece of equipment can range in cost from €10,000 to €50,000. This is a significant outlay for communities who rely on local fund raising together with local and national funding streams to maintain these recreational facilities.

The following funding streams are available as potential funding streams for Community Playground Committees:-

- CLÁR Scheme – Grants of up to 50K to support the development of Community Playgrounds (This does not cover Ennis & Shannon areas).
- Clare Local Area Grant Scheme (CLAGS) – €65k allocation for playgrounds in the 2023 scheme with a maximum grant available of €3K
- Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) – This is administered by the Local Community Development Committee who focused on supports for Community Playgrounds in the 2021/22 scheme.
- Play & Recreation Grant Scheme – €450K allocated across the Country to Local Authorities for the refurbishment and development of playgrounds and play areas with 30 projects awarded funding of circa 15K under the Play and Recreation Grant Scheme for 2022.
- A submission for funding supports for Community Playground was included for consideration under the new Development Contribution Scheme.

The Rural Development Department together with the Rural & Community Development Officers will continue to work with Community Playground Committees to support their invaluable role in the management and operation of these recreational facilities in Communities.

Bernie Haugh
A/Senior Executive Officer
Rural & Community Department

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