

Chairperson's Report 2025

As Chairperson of Shannon Community Partnership, it gives me great pride to reflect on what has been a remarkable year of progress, connection, and collaboration for our town.

What began as a small group of passionate people determined to make a difference has grown into a structured, respected, and action-focused community partnership representing the voices of those who live, work, and raise families in Shannon. Over the past twelve months, our board and task groups have shown what true community spirit looks like — people stepping up, volunteering their time, and turning ideas into impact. Together, we've strengthened our presence, our governance, and our networks, all while staying true to our mission: to build a stronger, more inclusive, and more connected Shannon.

Highlights of the Year

- Culture Night Shannon 2025 was a standout success, bringing together artists, musicians, families, and food vendors in a vibrant celebration of our community and creativity.
- We launched and expanded seven dedicated Task Groups — each driving progress in areas like Age Friendly initiatives, Health and Wellbeing, Sustainability, Disability inclusion, and Arts and Culture.
- We began the exciting process of registering as a charity, a major milestone that will ensure SCP's long-term sustainability and provide access to greater funding opportunities.
- We supported Taster Thursdays & Community Forums, introduced Funding Fridays, all aimed at increasing participation, connection, and awareness of local opportunities.
- We strengthened our partnerships with Clare County Council, Shannon Municipal District, CLDC, and Creative Ireland, while also building meaningful relationships with local TDs, businesses, and community groups.
- Our communication platforms have grown substantially, and through the Shannon Diary and social media, we are reaching more residents than ever before.

Funding & Collaboration

This year, SCP successfully secured support through various funding streams including the Small Community Grant Scheme, the Local Enhancement Programme (LEP), and Creative Ireland.

We also received vital sponsorships from St. Francis Credit Union, Ei Electronics, and many other local businesses who continue to champion our work.

These funds have allowed us to deliver community events, develop our infrastructure, and invest in training for our board. The advocacy training facilitated by Sinead Doody was particularly impactful, helping to strengthen our confidence and our collective voice as community advocates.



Partnership & Advocacy

Our partnership with the Shannon MD team of Clare County Council continues to be a cornerstone of our work. The bi-monthly meetings we hold with council officials ensure that Shannon's community priorities — from the Tullyvarraga Hall project to the Dog Park, green maintenance, and the long-awaited URDF funding announcement for the One Shannon Hub — remain firmly on the table.

We were also honoured to meet with TDs across Clare, including Deputy Donna McGettigan, to showcase our work on the ground and advocate for continued investment in Shannon's development.

Looking Ahead

As we look to the year ahead, SCP will continue to focus on: Delivering the St. Patrick's Day Parade 2026 – a community-led, inclusive celebration for everyone in Shannon. Advancing our Creative Places Award projects, empowering local artists and creatives to reimagine Shannon through art. Supporting our task groups to achieve their goals and continue building community participation. Strengthening our partnerships, securing further funding, and formalising our charitable status.

We know there is still much to do, but the passion and commitment of everyone involved in SCP gives me full confidence that we will continue to deliver for our community.

Acknowledgements

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all sitting members of our Board — Joanne Begley, Denise O'Brien, Don O'Sullivan, Geraldine Lambert, Sam Stephen, Sue Corcoran, Derek Clune and David O'Halloran, all whom have stepped up with such passion and generosity when it comes to volunteering their time. I would also like to thank our previous board members whose contributions in our formation stages were invaluable, those being our former chairperson Nick Condrón, Donna Marie O'Neill and the late David Browne, may he rest in peace.

Thank you also to Clare County Council, Shannon MD, CLDC, Creative Ireland, and our local businesses for their continued support.

Most importantly, thank you to the people of Shannon — for engaging with us, sharing your ideas, and reminding us why this work matters.

Shannon is a special town with a proud history and an even brighter future. Together, we are shaping it — one meeting, one event, and one project at a time.

Respectfully submitted,
Siobhán Boyd
Chairperson, Shannon Community Partnership