

East Clare heroes don capes for Éanna

Dan Donohue

AN East Clare community craze has rallied around the needs of a Feakle child with special needs by raising more than €5,000 for a national children's hospice.

Laura Lynn Children's Hospice held their annual 'Hero Day' on Friday, which promoted children and staff in Loughgraney Kids Corner (LKC) Plagmount to wear their hero costumes in support of a local family.

They collected a total of €3,272 in donations for the Laura Lynn Children's Hospice, which is providing care for 16 families in Clare.

Laura Lynn provides specialist palliative care to children from birth to 16 years, offering services such as symptom management, music and play therapy, psychological support, and end-of-life care, all delivered in the hospice, in hospitals, and in family homes across Ireland.

This proved to be a very special event for LKC to support the parents of Éanna who has complex special needs.

Catherine Downey, a Home Economics teacher on leave from Manager Community College in Ryan Road and she lives in Feakle with her partner Colin Naughton, a carpenter, who works in L. Solihull, Éanna.

The couple are urging people to make a donation to Laura Lynn, with Colin stating this can be done anonymously. Éanna, who is two years and two months old, was born with a genetic condition SPINA1 but he didn't inherit it as it was completely spontaneous.

Catherine explained Éanna is the only child in Ireland with this condition. "It is extremely rare and is one



Children from Loughgraney Kids' Corner having fun during the Hero Day fundraiser for Laura Lynn Children's Hospice. Photograph by Eugene McNamara

of the rarest conditions. Éanna wasn't developing and meeting his milestones and was having some form of seizure activity, which we were aware of at the time. We thought it was reflux. Eventually he was sent for a genetic test that came back very quickly after two weeks. When he was five months our lives changed completely. We went in for a meeting with our neurologist. "We were expecting to be told

that Éanna would have additional needs. We weren't expecting to be told it was life-limiting. That was the hardest thing to come to terms with. "The neurologist emphasized that I didn't do anything wrong as a mother. "Just before Christmas we started to come out of that fog that was there in the beginning," she said. The couple have to try and come to terms with the fact that

Éanna will be unable through no fault of his own to meet milestones of other children. Éanna can't walk and talk and doesn't smile apart from an occasional smirk. Receiving oxygen on a 24-hour basis, Éanna has severe epilepsy, is peg fed through his nuchal cyst, has a developmental disorder and visual impairment. While his eyes are fine, it seems there is a difficulty with the way his brain reads signals from

his eyes. A suction machine has to be brought with him everywhere because he can't cough, he has to be suctioned immediately. He has a monitor in his Feakle to keep a constant check on his oxygen levels and heart rate. When the couple received Éanna's diagnosis, Catherine recalled Laura Lynn came out three times a week at the start of their journey. Jack and Jill provides some care and the HSE also provides some oxygen hours.

Kathleen McNamara said the success of their service is due to the management skills of Lisa McGrath. The response has been overwhelming. All the kids brought in money today. The support has been heart warming. We have a very close knit community in Feakle and Plagmount," she said.

The couple's daughter Neala Naughton (4) attends Loughgraney Kids Corner (LKC). In addition to assisting the couple, Laura Lynn provides the couple with 15 days in their Dublin homes when the organisation looks after Éanna during his holiday break. Catherine said people in the Feakle community have been very supportive. "We try to get Éanna out and about in the local community. He was a special guest at the switching on of the Christmas lights in Feakle last December." The couple thanked Laura Lynn, Jack and Jill, LKC for their support and anyone who has helped them over the last two years. "Together for 25 years, Colin said they both each other up for the benefit of their family. Last October, Laura Lynn's first-ever regional appeal fundraiser at Thomond Park took an unforgettable turn when Colin proposed to Catherine, mid-air as they descended 42.5 metres from the stadium's West Stand. Ahead of the inaugural fundraising, the couple raised an incredible €88,000 to support children with palliative care needs and their families across Ireland. During their descent from the stadium's West Stand, Colin surprised Catherine with a mid-air proposal, which was met with cheers from supporters below. Their engagement added a special touch to the day. "Even though we have been together for so long, I was still totally shocked that Colin picked that day to propose. It made a special day even more special and meaningful," Catherine said. LKC Manager, Lisa McGrath was unable to be present due to a prior commitment.

Kathleen McNamara said the success of their service is due to the management skills of Lisa McGrath, who is very accommodating towards parents and staff alike. The event was organized by Maria Collins, who is very friendly with the couple, felt 'Hero Day' was an ideal way for the local community to support them and Laura Lynn. "The response has been overwhelming. All the kids brought in money today. The support has been heart warming. We have a very close knit community in Feakle and Plagmount," she said. Kathleen McNamara of LKC said taking part in 'Hero Day' gives the community a chance to show their support, raise awareness and celebrate the incredible work that Laura Lynn does for children with life-limiting conditions and their families. "We have excellent staff. Our main focus is on supporting the community and local families. It is the biggest employer in the community and is a very important local hub. Our base rate for childcare is the same for the last 20 years," she said. While LKC has 100 children registered for ECCE pre-school, after-school, breakfast club and all day care, regulations currently allow us to care for 70 children ranging in age from six months to 12 years of age at any one time. "I opened in 2008. I provide childcare for East Clare people from 7.30am until 6pm 50 weeks of the year employing 16 staff. Staff are looking forward to increasing this capacity having secured funding through the Government Building Blocks Scheme to build an additional baby toddler room. Building will commence shortly.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE AN CHLAIR
CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF A COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER UNDER SECTION 76 OF AND THE THIRD SCHEDULE TO THE HOUSING ACT, 1966 AS EXTENDED BY SECTION 10 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (NO. 2) ACT, 1966 AND AMENDED AND EXTENDED BY THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTS, 2000 - 2024, INCLUDING SECTION 213 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000 (AS AMENDED), SECTION 10 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND), ACT 1898, AS AMENDED BY SECTION 11 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (NO. 2) ACT, 1966, THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTS, 1923 - 2019, INCLUDING SECTIONS 11 AND 12 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (NO. 2) ACT, 1966, (AS AMENDED), THE HOUSING ACTS, 1966 - 2013, THE ROAD ACTS, 1953 - 2015, AND ALL OTHER ACTS THEREBY ENABLING

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND
CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL
CLAUREN UHAF NEW LINK ROAD
COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER NO. 1 OF 2026

Clare County Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Local Authority") in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Section 76 of the Housing Act, 1966, and the Third Schedule thereto, as extended by Section 10 of the Local Government (No. 2) Act, 1966 as substituted by Section 66 of the Housing Act, 1966 as amended and extended by the Planning and Development Act, 2000 - 2024, has made an order under section 76 of the Housing Act, 1966, as amended and extended by the Planning and Development Act, 2000 - 2024, which is subject to be submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála (the Commission) for confirmation. If confirmed, the order will authorise the Local Authority to acquire compulsorily the land described in Part I of the First Schedule hereto on a permanent basis and to compulsorily acquire the land described in Part II of the First Schedule hereto on a temporary basis. This acquisition is necessary for the purposes of the completion of the Clauren UHAF New Link Road together with all ancillary works associated therewith. Owners, lessees and occupiers of the land described in the Schedules will receive individual written notice. Any objection to the compulsory acquisition of land described in the First Schedule should be made in writing, stating the grounds of the objection, to An Coimisiún Pleanála 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902 within 4 weeks of the publication of this notice (13th July 2026).

The Board may, at its discretion, decide not to confirm -
(a) a compulsory purchase order in respect of the land if an objection is made in respect of the acquisition by an owner, lessee or occupier of the land, and not withdrawn, or
(b) an order which authorises the extinguishment of a public right of way if there is an objection to the extinguishment, which is not withdrawn. If it has chosen to hold an oral hearing into the matter and until it has considered the objection and the report of the person who has held the oral hearing, pursuant to section 218 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), An Coimisiún Pleanála has an absolute discretion to decide whether to hold an oral hearing into the matter. A copy of the order and the deposit maps referred to in it may be inspected at the following locations during the listed hours, (with the exception of public holidays) from Thursday 28th May 2026 to Monday 13th July 2026.

| Location & Address | Days & Times |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Clare County Council, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare, V95 DKP2. | Monday to Friday - 9.30am to 4pm. |
| An Coimisiún Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902. | Monday to Friday - 9.30am to 4pm. |

A copy of the order and the deposit map referred to in it may also be inspected online at <http://www.clarecoo.ie>
FIRST SCHEDULE AND SECOND SCHEDULE ATTACHED HERETO

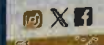
FIRST SCHEDULE PART I
LAND TO BE PERMANENTLY ACQUIRED
other than land consisting of a house or houses until for human habitation and not capable of being rendered fit for human habitation at reasonable expense

| Number on map deposited at the office of the Local Authority | Quantity, Description and Situation of Land | Owners or Reported Owners | Lessees or Reported Lessees | Occupiers (except tenants for a month or a lesser period than a month) |
|--|--|---|-----------------------------|--|
| 106.101 | Area (ha) 0.4214 Description Land Townland Claureen ED Ennill County Clare | KCW DEVELOPMENTS LTD UNIT 1 OLDENWAY COMMERCIAL ESTATE, BALLYBRIT, GALWAY | None | None |
| 106.102 | Area (ha) 0.3374 Description Land Townland Claureen ED Ennill County Clare | KCW DEVELOPMENTS LTD UNIT 1 OLDENWAY COMMERCIAL ESTATE, BALLYBRIT, GALWAY | None | None |

FIRST SCHEDULE PART II
LAND TO BE TEMPORARILY ACQUIRED
other than land consisting of a house or houses until for human habitation and not capable of being rendered fit for human habitation at reasonable expense

| Number on map deposited at the office of the Local Authority | Quantity, Description and Situation of Land | Owners or Reported Owners | Lessees or Reported Lessees | Occupiers (except tenants for a month or a lesser period than a month) |
|--|--|---|-----------------------------|--|
| 106.101 | Area (ha) 0.0343 Description Land Townland Claureen ED Ennill County Clare | KCW DEVELOPMENTS LTD UNIT 1 OLDENWAY COMMERCIAL ESTATE, BALLYBRIT, GALWAY | None | None |

DATED THIS 28TH DAY OF MAY 2026
John Corry, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services.



NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF A COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER UNDER SECTION 76 OF AND THE THIRD SCHEDULE TO THE HOUSING ACT, 1966 AS EXTENDED BY SECTION 10 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (NO. 2) ACT, 1960 AND AMENDED AND EXTENDED BY THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTS, 2000 - 2024, INCLUDING SECTION 213 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000 (AS AMENDED), SECTION 10 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND), ACT 1898, AS AMENDED BY SECTION 11 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (NO.2) ACT, 1960, THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTS, 1925 - 2019, INCLUDING SECTIONS 11 AND 184 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (NO. 2), ACT 1960, (AS AMENDED), THE HOUSING ACTS 1966 - 2015, THE ROADS ACTS 1993 - 2015, AND ALL OTHER ACTS THEREBY ENABLING

**COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND
CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL
CLAUREN LIHAF NEW LINK ROAD
COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER NO. 1 OF 2026**

Clare County Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Local Authority") in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Section 76 of the Housing Act, 1966, and the Third Schedule thereto, as extended by Section 10 of the Local Government (No. 2) Act, 1960 as substituted by Section 86 of the Housing Act, 1966 as amended by Section 6 of and the Second Schedule to the Roads Act, 1993 - 2015 and as amended and extended by the Planning and Development Act, 2000 - 2024, has made an order entitled as above which is about to be submitted to An Coimisin Pleanala (the Commission) for confirmation.

If confirmed, the order will authorise the Local Authority to acquire compulsorily the land described in Part I of the First Schedule hereto on a permanent basis and to compulsorily acquire the land described in Part II of the First Schedule hereto on a temporary basis. This acquisition is necessary for the purposes of the completion of the Clauren Lihaf New Link Road together with all ancillary works associated therewith.

Owners, lessees and occupiers of the land described in the Schedules will receive individual written notice. Any objection to the compulsory acquisition of land described in the First Schedule should be made in writing, stating the grounds of the objection, to An Coimisin Pleanala 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 D01 V902 within 6 weeks of the publication of this notice (13th July 2026).

The Board may, at its discretion, decide not confirm –
(a) a compulsory purchase order in respect of the land if an objection is made in respect of the acquisition by an owner, lessee or occupier of the land, and not withdrawn, or
(b) an order which authorises the extinguishment of a public right of way if there is an objection to the extinguishment, which is not withdrawn.

until it has caused to be held an oral hearing into the matter and until it has considered the objection and the report of the person who has held the oral hearing. Pursuant to Section 218 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), An Coimisin Pleanala has an absolute discretion to decide whether to hold an oral hearing into the matter.

A copy of the order and the deposit maps referred to in it may be inspected at the following locations during the listed hours, (with the exception of public holidays) from Thursday 28th May 2026 to Monday 13th July 2026.

| Location & Address | Days & Times |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Clare County Council, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare, V95 DKP2. | Monday to Friday - 9.30am to 4pm. |
| An Coimisin Pleanala, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902. | Monday to Friday - 9.30am to 4pm. |

A copy of the order and the deposit map referred to in it may also be inspected online at: <https://www.clarecoco.ie>

FIRST SCHEDULE AND SECOND SCHEDULE ATTACHED HERETO

| Number on map deposited at the offices of the Local Authority | FIRST SCHEDULE PART I LAND TO BE PERMANENTLY ACQUIRED (other than land consisting of a house or houses unfit for human habitation and not capable of being rendered fit for human habitation at reasonable expense) | | Lessees or Reputed Lessees | Occupiers (except tenants for a month or a lesser period than a month) |
|---|---|--|----------------------------|--|
| | Quantity, Description and Situation of land | Owners or Reputed Owners | | |
| 106.101 | Area (ha) 0.4214 Description Land Townland Clauren ED Ennis County Clare | KCW DEVELOPMENTS LTD UNIT 1 OLDENWAY COMMERCIAL ESTATE, BALLYBRIT, GALWAY | None | None |
| 106.102 | Area (ha) 0.3374 Description Land Townland Clauren ED Ennis County Clare | KCW DEVELOPMENTS LTD UNIT 1 OLDENWAY COMMERCIAL ESTATE, BALLYBRIT, GALWAY | None | None |

| Number on map deposited at the offices of the Local Authority | FIRST SCHEDULE PART II LAND TO BE TEMPORARILY ACQUIRED (other than land consisting of a house or houses unfit for human habitation and not capable of being rendered fit for human habitation at reasonable expense) | | Lessees or Reputed Lessees | Occupiers (except tenants for a month or a lesser period than a month) |
|---|--|--|----------------------------|--|
| | Quantity, Description and Situation of land | Owners or Reputed Owners | | |
| 106.101 | Area (ha) 0.03413 Description Land Townland Clauren ED Ennis County Clare | KCW DEVELOPMENTS LTD UNIT 1 OLDENWAY COMMERCIAL ESTATE, BALLYBRIT, GALWAY | None | None |

DATED THIS 28TH DAY OF MAY 2026

John Corry, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services.

