Slamming £10,000 survey - residents do their own

By Marie Hobbs

RESIDENTS of The Abbey who last month made it very clear to Limerick Corporation executives that they would fight a motion, unanimously passed by City Council to name the fourth bridge over the Shannon after the late Jim Kemmy, are now about to carry out a survey to decide who the bridge should be named after.

This move was revealed to the Limerick Post by Ald John Gilligan after Limerick Corporation confirmed on Monday that they are seriously considering having a survey carried out by the University of Limerick.

Reacting to the reports that such a survey would be costly - the estimate is believed to be in the region of £10,000 - Ald Gilligan, who led the delegation that marched on City Hall last month, said:

"It is amazing - we councillors are continuously being told that there is not enough money available to carry out essential repairs to Corporation houses that have leaking roofs, broken windows and doors hanging off, yet £10,000 could be squandered on a survey.

"We are organising our own survey, to be carried out first in the Kings Island and Abbey areas. Then we will spread out to the surrounding areas and follow this up with a day-long survey in the city centre.

"It will be quite clear-cut - people will be asked to indicate whether they would prefer the new bridge to be called The Abbey Bridge or the Jim Kemmy Bridge.

"This survey will be comprehensive and will cost nothing."

Describing any move by Limerick Corporation to pay substantially for a survey as "a waste of taxpayers' money," chairwoman of the Abbey Bridge committee, Bridie Hayes said:

"We believe this is a gross misuse of taxpayers' money by getting the University of Limerick to carry out a Public survey and we have now decided to do our own plebiscite, both on King's Island and in the wider city."

Limerick Corporation, who agreed to a defer naming the bridge to allow public consultation, has confirmed they are considering approaching the University of Limerick but rejects claims that the survey would cost in the region of £10,000.

Successful approach to large multiples

CASE Study: A Successful Approach to Dealing with the Large Multiples is the reason for a breakfast meeting organised by Marketing Institute of the Mid West Region, in association with the Limerick Leader.

ML guests and members are invited to hear guest speaker, Brendan O'Mara, the managing
KEMMY FAMILY BREAKS SILENCE OVER BRIDGE

By Marie Hobbs

WITH just days to go before Limerick City Council is dissolved, prior to the June local elections, the brother of the late Jim Kemmy has questioned the motivation behind a move by Cllr Kieran O’Hanlon to have the city’s latest river crossing named the Abbey Bridge and the newly extended City Art Gallery renamed the Kemmy Gallery.

Since the escalation of a row that broke out following the overthrow of a unanimous decision by City Council to name the new bridge after the highly esteemed late political and, without mounting opposition from residents of the Abbey area who want the bridge named after the Abbey Fishermen, the Kemmy family has resolutely refused to be drawn into the controversy.

However, following Cllr O’Hanlon’s disclosure on Wednesday that he will submit a motion to the last meeting of the present Council on Monday that “reflects the majority opinion in Limerick”, Joe Kemmy, speaking to the Limerick Post said: “I suggest this motion by Kieran is more to do with his election campaign and trying to hang onto his Council seat than it is to do with solving the bridge issue.”

In a statement issued on Wednesday, Cllr O’Hanlon refers to sentiments expressed by Jim Kemmy’s partner and great friend, Paddy Harold who said: “The nicest and most appropriate way of honouring Jim’s memory would, in my opinion, be to rename the City Art Gallery and its new annex, The Kemmy Gallery. It would be a reminder of Jim’s best legacy.”

Continued on page 4.

International profile for food festival

“WE’RE going international,” declared Oliver Keelhi, director of Limerick Good Food Festival ‘99 which begins its outdoor market on June 5 in venues across town.

“After four years of building the festival locally we have moved from August to June to gain on the Corporate Games, expect up 5,000 people, and blue collar arrivals have advertised in the UK and in Ireland.”

He was speaking to the Limerick Post at the festival’s launch in City Hall on Tuesday, which was addressed by Limerick Good Food Circle evalua-
tors, author Marilyn Bright and Le Coq Hardy’s John Howard, as well as deputy mayor Cllr John Griffin.

The 1999 festival is full of bold new angles. Publicity on the recent website is paying dividends with entries having doubled to the Art Limerick Banquet Competition, to be held in Castle Lane Tavern and the first time in LIT’s new catering college.

Six international teams and chefs (UK, USA, Canada, South Africa, Denmark and Limerick Good Food Circle) participate in competitions such as the Grand Prix Mondial; the bourses are underlined by a medieval or Grecian/ Roman theme.

Continued on page 4.

Weather

Rain promised on Friday will clear to give sunshine, showers, mild, southernly breezes.

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Company donates £1m software to University

OVER £1million in software courses to the University of Limerick has been sponsored by NETg, a multinational corporation specialising in computer-based training and a NETg public lecture series, also instituted by the company which was officially launched by Education Minister of State, Willie O’Dea.

The company, which took over Gartner Group Learning last year has established a special relationship with the University, “We are committed to operating in a Best Practices environment and the lecture series is a part of this vital commitment,” says Carole Reay, product marketing manager, NETg Ireland.

“We are delighted to work with the University on this initiative and hope to maintain our close links with regard to research and graduate recruitment,” she added.

Cooking up a treat for charity

A NUMBER of the city’s leading chefs will cook up some delicious fare when a special Gourmet Cookery evening takes place in Tesco, Arthurs Quay on Monday, May 10 in aid of the Share a Dream Foundation.

Commencing at 8pm, admission to the event is £5 and all proceeds from the night will go to the Foundation, which is a voluntary children’s charity that makes dreams come true for terminally ill children.

“This year Share a Dream is undertaking its biggest project - to build a Holiday Home in Ireland for sick and handicapped children and their parents, which means we have to raise the funds required,” a spokesperson for the charity said.

“Wine and cheese will be available to everyone who comes along to the Gourmet Cookery Evening and there will also be a raffle for some great prizes as well as an opportunity to sample some of the chefs’ delicacies,” she added.

Laurent Loualalen and Christine Lapeyre will be very happy to receive you in her new French restaurant L’Epicerie, situated at 4 Henry Street. Here you can appreciate French plates and cheeses and Breton pancakes - food and drink is served until 11pm. Closed Sunday. Telephone 310177.
Abbey leads Kemmy in survey so far

Conceding that the result of the first part of a survey of 3,000 people, the majority of whom declared they want the city's newest bridge named after the Abbey fishermen, was "on home ground," Ald John Gilligan said it is now intended to carry out phase two of the survey in the John Street area.

"We will then set up tables in the city centre and ask members of the general public for their preference," said the alderman who revealed that out of 3,000 people surveyed in the King's Island, the Corbally area and twice at the Milk Market, just 170 said they wanted the bridge named after the late Limerick politician and historian, Jim Kemmy.

Ald Gilligan said that so far the majority of those polled support the Abbey residents in their bid to have the bridge named after their ancestors who fished the river for generations.

"We will put all the results into a computer and when printed have the survey bound and then we will present it to Limerick City Council at their next meeting."

Meanwhile another survey team will locate on the Dublin Road later this week.

Very happy with the results of the survey so far, Abbey fishermen committee chairperson, Bridie Hayes said: "All names and addresses are logged and there is absolutely no pressure put on people to sign for the Abbey name.

Last week, senior engineer with Limerick Corporation, assumed councillors that the new bridge will be named "the week after the May Bank Holiday weekend," that is if you councillors can agree on what it is to be called."

Some months ago the councillors unanromously agreed to have the bridge named after the late Jim Kemmy.

Ireland and have spoken with great praise of the welcome they received and are now firm planning for a meeting in the whole region," added Martin Bradley, Ireland West Tourism.

Barney goes for it

A MASTER craft park for the Island Field and King John's Castle area is a chief priority for Bernard "Barney" Sheehan who has declared himself a candidate in the June election.

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Abby sing out in victory

TO JUBLANT strains of the parish anthem, There Is An Isle, residents of the Abbey triumphant congratulated each other when after almost three hours heated debate in City Hall on Monday, Mayor Joe Harrington announced that the city's new bridge will be named the Abbey Bridge at a special meeting on Friday.

The hallowed atmosphere of City Hall's Council Chamber was charged with nail-biting excitement as the determined residents' led by their spokesperson, Bridie Hayes and Ald John Gilligan made it very clear that they were not ready to leave the building until Council agreed to name the bridge after their ancestors - the Abbey fishermen.

The issue raged into a public controversy two months ago when the Abbey people made their bid, despite the fact that each member of the City Council had unanimously voted to name the bridge after the late James Kennedy.

At one point, and one which must not be missed, is that many of the horrific events related in the RTE series occurred within just a few years.

We are all guilty in part if we turn a blind eye to any abuse being perpetrated today.

The Daily Mirror was one of the first to report the abuses at the Taoiseach's apology this week, following the disclosures of childhood abuse in various institutions, as revealed in the RTE documentary series, States of Fear, where there is a furor and obligation on all of us to root out any abuse being perpetrated today.

The report pointed out that abuse is not only in the present but that all of the horrors that occurred in the RTE series occurred within just a few years.

We are all guilty in part if we turn a blind eye to any abuse being perpetrated today.

TUESDAY -

February 17th 1999

Attending the Revenue's Schools Debating Final in the University of Limerick last weekend were St. Nessan's Community College runners up to St. Enda's. Pictured are from left: Terri Coffey, teacher; Michelle Mac Sweeney; Laura Burke; Liam Irwin, Collector General; Sharon Curley, captain; Diane Gordan; Fiona Hayes; Anne Kennedy, teacher; and Eddie Horgan, revenue.

Taking action

When we as a people have become used to the daily news of abductions and killings of our children, the greater and more profound our reaction is to our inherent reaction. But however profound our reaction is not enough. And welcome though the Taoiseach's apology this week, following the disclosures of childhood abuse in various institutions, as revealed in the RTE documentary series, States of Fear, there is a furor and obligation on all of us to root out any abuse being perpetrated today.

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Council agrees to name bridge after the Abbey

By MIKE DORAN

The new bridge over the Abbey River is to be named the Abbey Bridge. "It has been a long struggle. The leather is worn off our shoes. But it's worth it," was how Bridie Hayes, chairwoman of the Abbey Bridge Committee, reacted to the news.

After much "to-ing and fro-ing" at yesterday's city council meeting, an agreement was reached. A decision was also made to name the art gallery in the Carnegie building, the Jim Kemmy Art Gallery.

The meeting, the last scheduled for the year, continued for over three and a half hours, most of which was spent discussing this controversial issue.

After two hours, two breaks and a lot of indecision amongst the councillors, Cllr Frank Leddin said that he now understood "how it took so long to decide anything in Northern Ireland".

Cllr Dick Saddler at one point remarked that the meeting had turned into "something of a circus", stopping and starting to hear new motions and examine procedures.

Assistant town clerk Conn Murray informed the members that in order to proceed with a new motion, they would have to take a vote to rescind the previous two motions, one naming the bridge the Jim Kemmy Bridge, the other proposing that a survey be carried out to gauge public opinion.

As the meeting progressed, a unanimity amongst the councillors became apparent. They wanted to honour Jim Kemmy and the Abbey Fishermen and eventually decided that the best way to do this was to name the bridge after the fishermen, and the art gallery after Jim Kemmy.

Labour Party colleagues of the late Mr Kemmy asked that the proper procedures be adhered to, and that a special meeting be called for later in the week, to allow discussion with the Kemmy family.

Mayor Harrington commented that the people of the Parish didn't just want to win, "they want to win with blood". He then proposed a special public meeting to be held on Friday, to name the new bridge the Abbey Bridge and to name the gallery in the Carnegie building, the Kemmy Gallery.

"For once I'm not going to make a speech," said Aidan Gilligan, before the people of the Parish who had gathered in City Hall, broke into a victorious verse of There is an Isle.