THREE of Limerick’s former Aldermen—Ted Russell, Jim Kemmy and Steve Coughlan—have strongly criticised design features of the new bridge across the Shannon.

"Perambulator Bridge" is how Mr. Coughlan described it, in a reference to the width of footpaths “let alone the road”.

“It definitely should be four-lane”, declared Ald. Kemmy, “and one does not have to be an architect or an engineer to see that.

“The design of the bridge style-wise appears very nondescript and drab, especially being sited to so elegant a bridge as Sarsfield Bridge”.

Sarsfield Bridge was designed as a copy of one of the famous Bridges of Paris—the original was destroyed during the Second World War a century later—hence its architectural importance.

And at a parchment presentation ceremony at Sarsfield House, former Alderman and Senator, Ted Russell, recalled the elegance of the Third Bridge as originally conceived, when it was intended to “fly over” the Dock Road.

Sanctioned

Explained Ald. Kemmy: “The bridge has now been sanctioned by the Department, but there was always the fear that if we on the Council opposed the bridge, as presented by the Department with its two lanes, that might be used as an excuse by Dublin to delay its commencement”.

Remarked Mr. Coughlan: “I was the first to sponsor the bridge twenty years ago. I was the first to propose it, and after all the hassle that went on, they have now succeeded in erecting a bridge which is only: fit for cyclists and perambulators, with no thought for traffic... or the future”.

“It’s a great tragedy”, he observed.

Ald. Kemmy said: “More is the pity, because there are some lovely concrete bridges in Britain and America, which goes to show what can be achieved in concrete, design-wise.

“Our is going to be a very functional bridge”.

Beautiful in Sizes 16-30