Shannon Bridge: City now has two of them

By LEADER REPORTER
WITH TADISEACH
Charles Haughey set to open the new Third Bridge across the Shannon next month it transpired this Friday that city councillors who officially nominated the new crossing was Shannon Bridge did so without realizing that the old Shannon Bridge, bearing the same name a few hundred yards upstream.

And speculation is increasing that some councilors may now seek to have the name of the bridge changed to prevent the confusion and indeed Shannonbridge of having two crossings of the same name.

Mr. Michael MacCurtain, city manager, who officially presided at the opening ceremony, said that the name of the first Shannon Bridge was a railway bridge near Longdown, and known also as the "Old Bridge," was not adverted to at the meeting of the protocol committee of the city council called to name the third Bridge.

No difference? He said he felt the fact that the "Metal Bridge" was officially Shannon Bridge made no difference.

"Many bridges throughout the world have been named after their rivers, and it is thought that the name of the weir at the widest part of the river was the Shannon Bridge," he said.

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Admitted
He admitted that he was not aware that the "Metal Bridge" was officially Shannon Bridge. He also admitted to not hearing on the matter, he claimed.

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"You could stop 100 people in the street and they would not be able to direct you where it was," he added.

Discussing the new bridge's effects on the Shannon Bridge, a source for Shannonbridge oil, is already proving a major headache.

Parents plead for children's safety

ALTHOUGH THE OPENING of Shannon Bridge will be a welcome boost for the city, new concerns for school-going children in the North Circular Road, it is already proving a major headache.

This Friday members of the Shannon Bridge, at the meeting of the protocol committee of the city council called to name the third Bridge.

"Our biggest concern is for the children," the Mayor said. "When we open this bridge at the end of the week, we will find new schools. And we will also have to work in conjunction with the department of education and the road authority to make sure that the school is safe for the children."

Moetings
Secretary of the parents committee, Mr. Coll, said that while the bridge was welcome, it would certainly create problems. "We have convened our parents to the Corporation and we have met with them on a number of occasions," he said.

Suggestions put forward by the parents included the widening of Lower Shannon Bridge or making it one-line.

"We were told by them that the Corporation has applied for planning permission for sports fields where we suggested they should be extended in width," said Mr. Coll. "And making it one way, would we be told the area would be extended in width?"

At the moment there is an unlicensed one-way operation on the Lower Shannon Bridge. Which is not adhering to the bylaws on bringing children to and from school.

Problems
Mr. Coll, said that Shannonbridge is already open and in operation, said Mrs. Morrison.

"But at the moment the Corporation are not showing any willingness to proceed with their promises," said Mr. Coll. "This part of the project seems to be abandoned by them at the moment."

"If they don't complete this work and open the bridge as soon as possible, the situation will get worse. The sidewalks..."