

Spotlight beams on gallery and writer's home

536 visitors on Culture Night-double the number for the whole of last year

by Marie Hobbins

ACCREDITATION has been sought for the Limerick City Gallery of Art in Pery Square, it has been confirmed by director, Pippa Little. In 1985 the city library service transferred from the Pery Square building to The Granary on Michael Street.

And concern was again raised at a

school, said that seeking accreditation from an external body is the way to go.

"I have seen the humidity levels that Pippa mentioned being monitored to protect the gallery's paintings - this gallery is a key cultural attraction for the city and may I compliment Pippa Little for her expertise".

The council aims to

subject of ongoing debate for some months now, Cllr Kathleen Leddin said:

"The house is almost beyond repair now - I've been bringing this up for the past 10 years - here we are in Limerick, hosting a special Kate O'Brien Weekend each year and taking care to promote and support it, yet we sit here in City Hall watching her

time and since, has gained international recognition for her books, at least one of which - That Lady - was adapted for the screen and released as a film by Hollywood, in a state of disrepair.

"This house could be made available to the city for a writer's museum and with the sizeable amount of space to the rear,

you on this," he responded.

Some weeks ago, the Limerick Post reported on the personal involvement of the conservation architect, Alan Quinlan, who is a first cousin of the owners, in interesting both his relatives and City Hall in future plans for the house.

Kate O'Brien's Mulgrave Street home is "beyond repair".



meeting of the Cultural Committee that little has been done by the authorities to preserve the Mulgrave Street home of writer, Kate O'Brien.

Ms Little said that gaining accreditation to the Art Gallery would provide a standard to visitor services.

She also stated that during Culture Night on September 25, there were 536 visitors to the gallery - more than the total number during the whole of last year.

"Various standards will be assessed and approved - we have over 800 works in our gallery, which we must keep safe for posterity. We have a strict management plan and by going through accreditation, we will secure greater protection for our paintings".

Cllr Tom Shortt, an art teacher in a city

"set new targets for the coming years in relation to the city's cultural sector," Pat Dowling, director of services, told the meeting.

"We must set new, ambitious targets for

home fall down".

Cllr Shortt agreed that this was a sad reflection on the image of the city.

"During the summer, we were all saddened by the death of Frank McCourt, whose

perhaps it could also house the city library, which wants to move out of Michael Street and seek larger premises - why can't we be imaginative and move such an amenity out of the city centre and up to Mulgrave Street?"

Pointing out that the Kate O'Brien home - Boru House - is in private ownership, Mr Dowling replied that the city council had never been approached with any proposals for the house.

"The owners have never contacted us here in City Hall - they have had no contact with my office".

Cllr Leddin said the house is now almost derelict.

"Have we any jurisdiction in this," she asked, and was told by Mr Dowling that he was not sure.

"I will come back to

Council official says owners of Kate O'Brien's home have not made approaches to them

the coming years for the city and especially for the city centre," he said.

Referring to the Mulgrave Street family home of the Limerick author, Kate O'Brien, which has been the

reputation as the author of Angela's Ashes is worldwide, and whose family home has become a top visitor attraction in this city, and yet we have the home of Kate O'Brien who, in her

Second time lucky for housing disability grants

BY Marie Hobbins

GOOD news in the form of a top-up allocation of €457,000 from the Department of the Environment, has been granted to the housing department of Limerick City Council to enable it process more application forms for grants.

Cllr Joe Leddin, chairman of the housing committee, told the Limerick Post that despite an initial rejection by the Department for additional funding, a further, more detailed request received a positive response.

"Just a few weeks ago, members of the Housing Committee and I were disturbed that we would have to substantially cut back on the grants we give to help the elderly and those with disabilities to make changes to their homes, which would allow them the opportunity to remain at home and a better quality of life.

"We are talking here of small scale extensions, removal of baths for level access showers and other works to make homes more accessible and adaptable for people, all of which are very worthwhile projects".

He said that as chair of the housing committee, he was delighted that the allocation, on top of the one million already spent this year, will result in more applications currently waiting for approval, to be speedily sanctioned.

"I've made the point often enough that the cost of maintaining an elderly person in a long-stay bed in State care is substantial compared to the small costs involved in the allocation and processing of individual grants".

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