



The Custom House . . . State to give £40,000 of the £2.5m needed to house Hunt Collection. (LL)

Hunt Museum given £40,000 State funding

By DYMPHNA BRACKEN

THE city's Hunt Museum, which just been awarded £40,000 Government funding, is the first collection of national importance outside of Dublin to receive such funding.

Mairead Dunleavy, director, said the decision by Minister for Arts and Culture, Michael D Higgins, to fund the museum, represented a major cultural advance in favour of the regions.

The Hunt Collection will be open to the public in the refurbished Custom House from June 1995.

The capital cost of establishing the museum in the Custom House is estimated at £2.5m.

This money is expected

to be made available through EU structural funding.

The Corporation will be the executive authoritative responsible for engaging contractors to complete the refurbishment and fitting out of the Custom House.

Jack Higgins, city manager, told the Limerick Leader, that the Corporation does not wish to enter into any contract until the necessary funding is made available.

In the meantime, city architect Jim Barrett, and architects from the Office of Public Works, are preparing detailed plans for the refurbishment of the Custom House.

It is expected that these plans will be finalised in April when clarification of structural funds should be known, said Mr Higgins.

"We would hope to be in a position to proceed with work immediately," said

Mr Higgins, who added that he was very hopeful of an allocation of funds.

The project is being supported by Shannon Development and the Corporation.

City Council allocated £100,000 to the project in their 1994 estimates, and are expected to make a similar allocation next year.

The Friends of the Hunt Museum committee, formed to help fundraise for the day-to-day running of the museum, have planned a lecture series to commence next month.

The first lecture, in Plassey House, will be given by Raymond Keaveney, director of the National Gallery, on The National Gallery and Carravagio.

Other lectures will be given by Richard Wood, on Irish landscape painters of the 18th and 19th centuries, and by Peter Francis from the Institute of Irish Studies

in Belfast.

The Hunt museum is an internationally important collection of medieval works of art and Irish archaeology.

Since July last, part of the collection has been on display in the University's of Limerick's Foundation Building pending the move of the full collection to its permanent headquarters in the Custom House.

The full collection includes pieces which were commissioned and used by both lay and ecclesiastical patrons in the mediaeval period, and includes

a bronze horse thought to be from the hand of Leonardo Da Vinci, and a Greek silver coin revered since the Middle Ages as one of the biblical 30 pieces of silver.

Also in the display are works by Picasso and Gauguin.

Loc ove

RESIDENTS nonmore are c about proposals 76 houses at Road, according Prendergast.

Cllr Prendergast realised that a decision had been taken to redevelop the area for housing

Confere

COUNCILLORS attend four conference the next month.

It was agreed the following members attend.

Cllrs Dick Sargent and Tim Leddin will attend conference on the subject of the ment in Tralee January 27 to 29.

Cllr Frank Prendergast, John Quinn and Kennedy will attend conference "local authorities at the regional perspective" Waterford on January 27 to 29.

Cllrs Frank Leddin and Bobby Byrne will attend conference on Development by Public Agencies Killarney on February 4.

Cllrs Kieran Conboy and Ald Sean Grant will attend a meeting of the Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland Bundoran on February 12 and 13.

Fairgreen planning

ALD Kemmy will be sensitive planning Fairgreen area.

There are very few roads in the area claimed, and little children to play.

He also referred to Lawrence Park and residents there need protection from vandals.

"This is a sensitive area and needs proper planning," he said.

Willowhurst Developments Ltd have been asked to plan permitted planning permission to construct 30 semi-detached houses, together with other works, at the