

News

Move to honour Leader columnist Mainchin

■ Cllr Mike Donegan proposes naming new council buildings for late writer

KILMALLOCK

Áine Fitzgerald

THE spirit of late Dr Mainchin Seoighe (Mannix Joyce) will be kept alive in more than just the books at the library in Kilmallock if a proposal to name the new multi-million euro civic buildings in his honour is accepted.

It was heard at this week's Kilmallock area meeting that the board of directors of Kilmallock Tourism Development Ltd had suggested naming the building - which houses the new library and area offices - in honour of the late historian and writer. A letter was forwarded by the board of directors to the county manager and to the local councillors outlining the proposal. The meeting heard that there

It would be a fitting tribute to one of the best writers and historians in the area

- Cllr Mike Donegan

were no other formal suggestions put forward at present for the name of the building.

A native of Tankardstown - between Kilmal-

lock and Bruree - Mainchin was a lifelong community activist in his own area, specialising in local history and lore and writing a regular column in the Limerick Leader under the pen name An Mangaire Sugach.

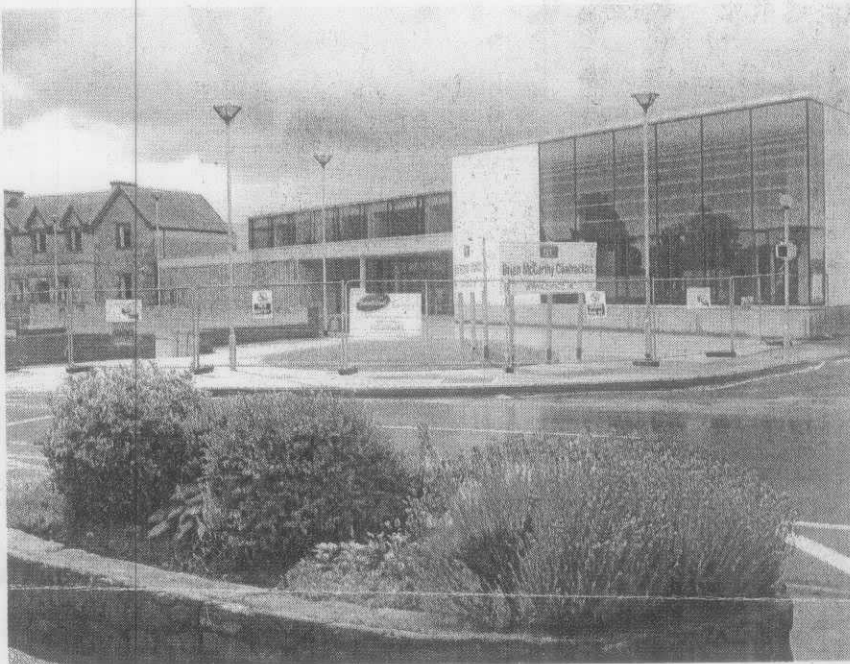
He also published books on the history of Kilmallock and Dromin/Athlaccaparc which helped win the All-Ireland Glór na nGael award.

"I think it would be very fitting to have the building named Aras Mainchin Seoighe," said Cllr Mike Donegan. His proposal was seconded by Cllr James Heffernan.

"Many people had approached me about the name and three or four people had suggested calling it after Mannix Joyce rather than just calling it the Council buildings. It would be a fitting tribute to one of the best writers and historians in the area," Cllr Donegan added.

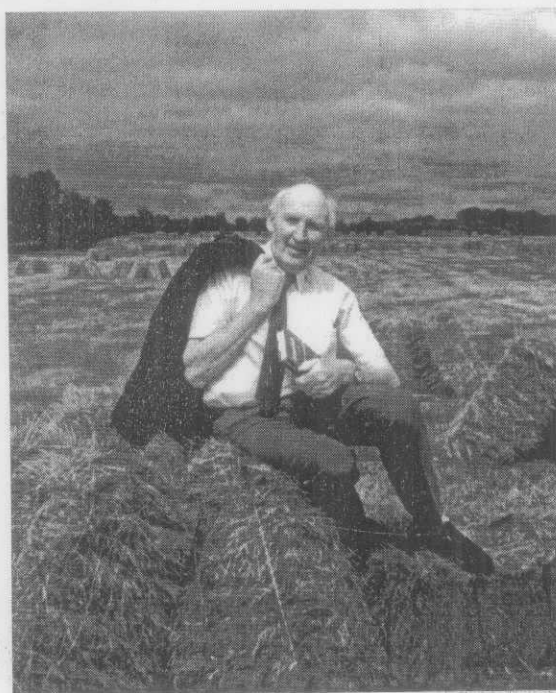
Director of Environment and Emergency Services Gerry Behan said that he would mention the proposal at the party leaders' meeting. The official opening of the civic space which includes the library and the area office has been earmarked for the second half of November.

"There is work to be done, such as the stocking of the library and some planting. Generally for the official opening you would like to have the place up and running and spic and span," said Mr Behan who pointed out that the court house next door would be organising its own opening.



Above: the new civic buildings in Kilmallock

Right: the late Mannix Joyce, writer, historian and columnist in the Limerick Leader



"Having received grant money from the Department of the Environment the normal thing would be to have the Minister for the Environment perform the official opening," said Mr Behan.

It was also suggested to have a full meeting of the Council at the new premises as was previously done at the opening of the Rathkeale Area Office and the Council office at Lissanalta. The issues are to be discussed first at the party leaders' meeting before going before the full council.

Welfare fast track system

THE Minister for Social and Family Affairs has said Limerick will be included in a new 'fast track' system for those people who are now applying for job seekers' benefits.

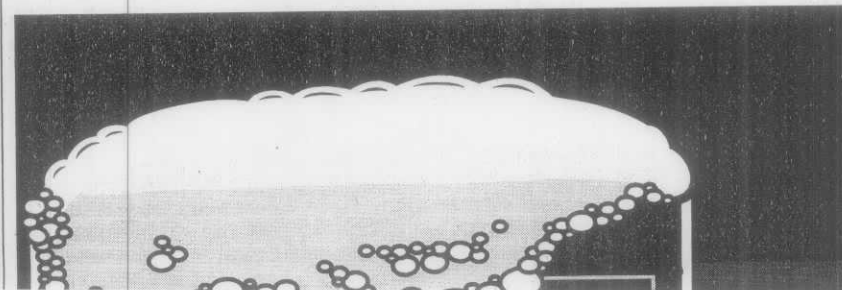
However, Minister Mary Hanafin declined to say when this will happen - despite the fact that now

more than 21,000 people are now unemployed in Limerick.

Minister Hanafin said that her department will roll out the fast tracking system to other offices besides the 20 which are already benefitting shortly.

"We are starting with the 20 offices which

already have an appointment system in place, then we will be rolling it out to other offices after this. I know the first 20 [offices] are due to be started this month. As soon as the Limerick office is able to put an appointment system in place, we will then implement the system," she said.



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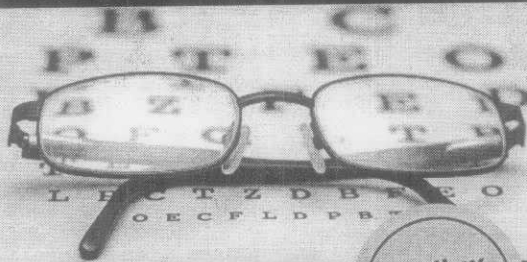


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