

LEVIES CUT
DA Ireland has
a controversial
city and county
developer levies,
ide "a platform"
irect investment

onship manager
ld Limerick Life
maintain (Lim-
titiveness" as a
or companies.
tribution levy
the majority of
oday, all IDA
from a 50% cut

llor, James Col-
rward the levy
ined that "the
biggest single
g jobs into the
fice space and
s".

jobs, building
ing Limericks
' Cllr Collins

d: "It's great to
il who are lis-
re being told.
d be compli-

m the council
elopment fees
as to try to
sidential and
nent.

development
e building of
vell as homes,
elopments to
of new job
e area.

s are being
quare metre,
vious years,
ore lucrative
pers to build

ontributions
ail, commer-
lds in regen-

3, AAA, who
laimed local
stood to save
e cuts.

A 20-year old man has pleaded guilty to two counts of attempting to bribe a serving garda by offering him €5,000, after he was arrested on suspicion of drink driving.

Eoin McDonnell, 20, with an address of Thomond Mills, Sixmilebridge, Co Clare, appeared before Limerick District Court, Monday.

Mr McDonnell admitted two counts of attempting to bribe Garda Alan Griffin, Henry Street Garda Station, in order to frustrate a potential prosecution, contrary to the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2001.

Giving evidence, Sergeant Mike Reidy, Henry Street, said Mr McDonnell "was arrested on January 29, 2016, on suspicion of drink driving". After Mr McDonnell was "processed at Henry Street Garda Station" in the early hours of January 30, "he approached the prosecuting garda and offered him the sum of €2,000 for the non-discharge of the prosecution of the matter", Sgt Reidy said.



Eoin McDonnell pictured outside Limerick Courthouse. Pic: Press 22

"The following day, (Garda Griffin) was off-duty at Collins bar and restaurant (Limerick), and the defendant happened to be there, as well, by chance. The defendant approached the garda and offered him €5,000, reiterating his intention for the garda not to proceed".

Mr McDonnell "made no comment" after he was arrested and interviewed about the

Ms Ryan said it was "an extremely stupid thing to do".

"It was amateurish," she said.

She added Mr McDonnell offered money to Garda Griffin "to make it go away."

Ms Ryan said the alleged bribe of €5,000, on January 31, was as a result of "a chance encounter" with the garda.

She told the court: "(Mr McDonnell) didn't have money available...he wasn't going to pay; it was ridiculous".

"He was arrogant and stupid. It was never going to work. There was no reality to what Mr McDonnell was saying."

"It was an act of absolute stupidity," Ms Ryan told the court.

She described Mr McDonnell as "immature" and said his "coping skills are not good".

Mr McDonnell faces, on conviction, a maximum sentence of a fine of €2,500 and or 12 months in jail, the court heard.

Judge Marian O'Leary remanded him on continuing bail for a statement of his financial means, ahead of sentencing on March 15th.

Limerick's Negga gets Oscar nomination for Loving

SARAH O'DWYER

Limerick's Ruth Negga has become the first Limerick person since the late Richard Harris to receive an Oscar nomination for acting - for her role as Mildred in the film 'Loving'.

Due to hit Irish cinemas on February 3, Negga has already proven to be a big hit stateside for her portrayal of the black woman who violated Virginia's Racial Integrity Act by marrying a white man. A Mayoral reception is now being planned for her in her home city.

The 35-year-old says she fell in love with the Lovings after watching documentary footage of them and has since become friends with the Loving's daughter Peggy, who also attended the premiere of the film in October last year.

With a perfect last name but in less than

perfect circumstances, Richard and Mildred Loving made history with their fight against the state of Virginia to legally recognise interracial marriage.

Virginia's Racial Integrity Act of 1924 meant the Lovings could not get married in their home state, so the couple drove north to Washington, D.C. to tie the knot and then returned to their home in Caroline County, Virginia - something which was also not permitted at the time.

They'd been married just a few weeks when the town Sheriff and two deputies, acting on an anonymous tip that the Lovings were in violation of the law, stormed into the couple's bedroom.

When the sheriff questioned the relationship between Mildred and Richard, she said unashamedly: "I'm his wife," and Richard then pointed out the couple's marriage certificate which was hanging on the wall. The sheriff coldly stated the docu-

ment held no power in their locale, resulting in a few nights in jail for both of them.

After the couple was ordered to leave the state, Mildred wrote to then-Attorney General Robert Kennedy, who suggested she contact the American Civil Liberties Union. Following a long fought battle, in 1967, the U.S. Supreme Court abolished the Virginia law, also ending the remaining ban on interracial marriages in other states.

Speaking to Limerick Life, her uncle Ger Malone said he was bursting with pride: "We're all delighted for her. There is pride in all the family here in Dooradoyle, and we'll probably have a glass of something to celebrate. WhatsApp is whopping away now in the family (text message) group, from as far away as Australia; she's a cousin in Australia, she's cousins in Canada, and she's obviously cousins here at home."

TORICAL JEWELS - LIMERICK

by Evans - The Fresh Food Emporium

"The limerick is furtive and mean;
You must keep him in close
quarantine Or he sneaks to the
slums And promptly becomes
Disorderly, drunk and obscene"

Pages 23-25



To contact the editor
• e: editor@limericklife.ie

• 99 O'Connell Street, Limerick
• t: 061 513273 • w: www.limericklife.ie

Ex: LIMERICK LIFE
25TH JANUARY 2017
PAGE 4