

# City to capitalise on its rich heritage

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VERY definite moves are afoot to restore, revitalise and include Limerick city's distinctive Georgian houses and buildings in the new City Strategy Project.

With the spotlight currently trained on the various layers of commercial and residential development in the city, back-stage, so to speak, a blueprint to regenerate Limerick's Georgian core is being prepared.

In a recent presentation in City Hall, the Hunt Museum (formerly the Custom House), built in 1769, was held up as a likely catalyst for a Georgian revival in

and other city centre streets, the continued neglect of Newtown Pery should be addressed.

"The Irish Georgian Society considers the City Centre Strategy a once in a lifetime opportunity to reverse this trend and to promote the regeneration of Newtown Pery and to achieve this aim the council should seek to use available legislative and fiscal resources and learn from both national and international examples of urban heritage regeneration" advises Mr Cahill.

Some months ago, a seminar, attended by the Irish Georgian Society, was held in City Hall, with various planners, archi-

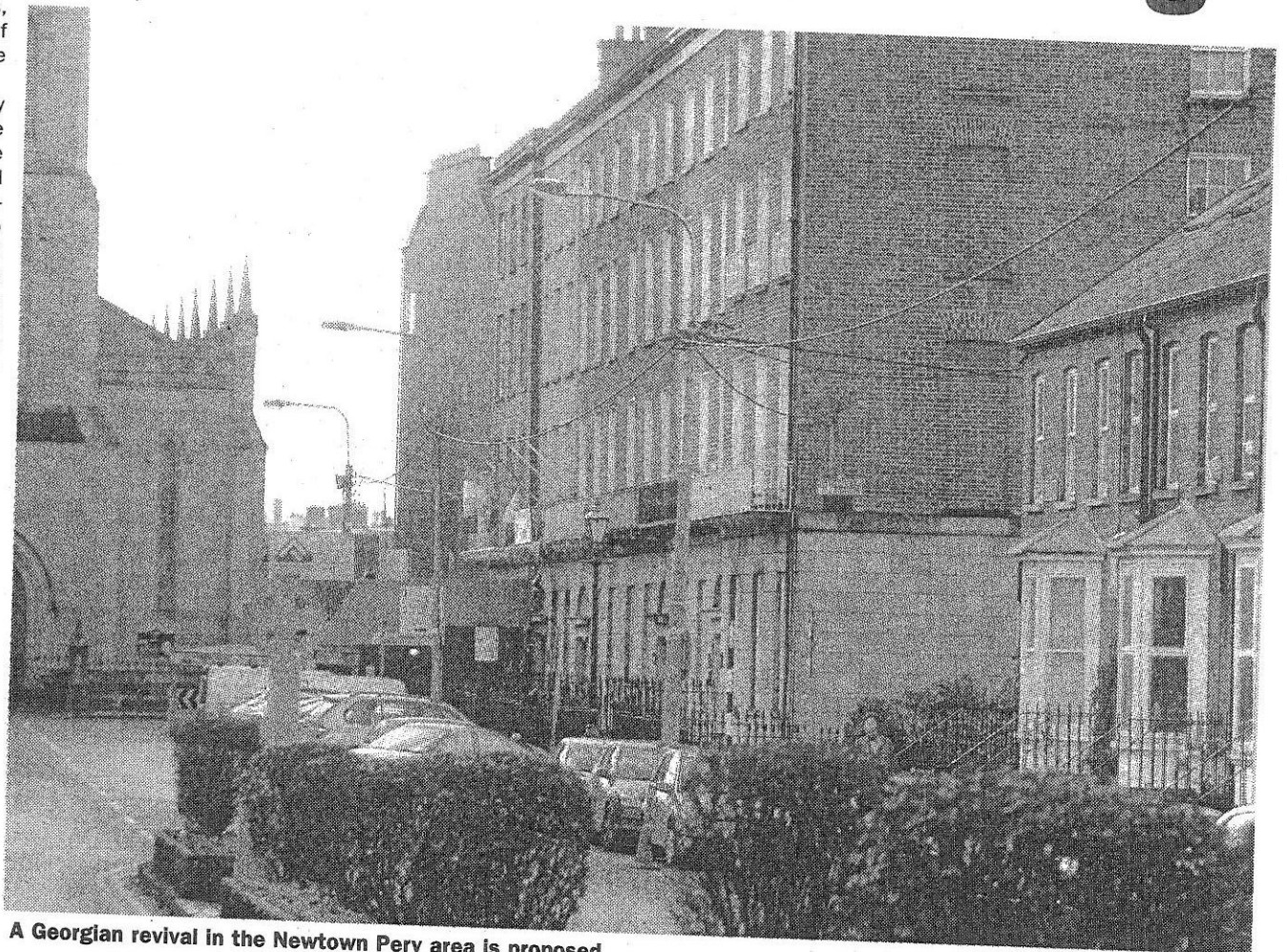
'The regeneration of Limerick's Georgian area in Newtown Pery will require a big vision that aims to form the basis of applications to Government for major funding and other taxation incentives and for this vision to be a success, it will need wide support and commitment from both the city council and from all relevant stakeholders'.

the Newtown Pery area and the highly successful Georgian restoration of Grainger, Newcastle upon Tyne, England, which attracted £40million of public funding that in turn attracted a further 160million of private investment and which is now being used as the European template, was presented as an example that

tects and business people contributing.

Among the guest speakers were, Desmond Fitzgerald, the Knight of Glin and president of the Irish Georgian Society, and David Lee, chairman, Limerick Chapter of the Irish Georgian Society.

Acknowledged by the Irish



**A Georgian revival in the Newtown Pery area is proposed**

be a success, it will need wide support and commitment from both the city council and from all relevant stakeholders".

Newton Pery, which was devised by the Italian architect,

Square Tontines. However, by the mid 19th century, Newtown Pery began a period of economic decline and physical deterioration which has left its elegant houses and streetscapes marred by over a century of inadequate upkeep, subdivided houses, PVC windows, rusted and buckling railings and dangling overhead wirescapes.

Pointing out that these factors restrict the competitiveness of businesses located in the area and take from its desirability as a place to live, Mr Cahill said that as a result, such an urban environment effectively deters

investment.

An in-depth assessment of tax driven initiatives that could be availed of was produced by Goodbody Economic consultants for the Department of Finance.

City Hall has been advised by the Irish Georgian Society that it should place an additional emphasis on regenerating the Georgian area.

Concluded Mr Cahill: "This could be achieved by identifying in the City Centre Strategy additional resources, both financial and technical to facilitate the conservation, restoration and

reuse of protected structures.

"As Newtown Pery's Georgian buildings and streetscapes comprise one of the city's most defining assets, the use of this area as a catalyst for urban regeneration is compelling, and if the council were to prioritise in its City Centre Strategy a regeneration of Newtown Pery, it would have the power of shaping Limerick's image as a dynamic place with the maturity to recognise its rich heritage and such a regeneration would act as an example for other towns and cities in Ireland, including Dublin".



Limerick could learn from.

The establishment of a Task Force and the sending of a deputation to explore the Grainger, Newcastle upon Tyne initiative is being considered.

City Hall, head of finance, John Field, has been advised by Donough Cahill, director of the Irish Georgian Society, that, in contrast to the continuing regeneration of the city's riverside

Georgian Society as "one of Ireland's outstanding historic cities," the regeneration of Limerick's Georgian area in Newtown Pery, will, according to the Irish Georgian Society, "require a big vision that aims to form the basis of applications to Government for major funding, and other taxation incentives and for this vision to

Davis Ducart, was laid out in the 1760s as a new city quarter for Limerick and was subdivided and leased to developers who built up their plots during the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Landmarks included The Crescent and Pery Square and such private buildings as the Custom House and the Pery

## Bursary honours former CBS student

THE memory and achievements of a former pupil of CBS, Sexton Street, will be perpetuated through the setting up of the Eamonn Dillon Memorial Bursary Awards, by Analog Devices.

Analog has just presented a total of 30 awards to the school to mark the achievements of CBS students in maths and science in the previous academic year.

Eamonn Dillon was a former employee of Analog, who died tragically in a car accident in Chicago, in 2005.

Commenting on the awards scheme, CBS school principal, Noel Earlie, said: "We are delighted that Analog Devices has chosen to mark Eamonn's memory in this way as the scheme has proven to be a strong incentive for our pupils to perform well in maths and science.

"I'm also hopeful that it will be a factor in encouraging students to select more science subjects in the senior cycle. We have a good tradition of a strong performance in the science area - something that was epitomised by Eamonn Dillon - and we look forward to this

scheme going from strength to strength in the years ahead".

Eamonn, himself a recipient of a JP McManus college scholarship, was a past pupil of CBS and was employed as an engineer in Analog Devices at the time of his death.

A total of 30 pupils received bursary awards totalling 11,000 euro at an event at the ADI Sports and Social Club in Mungret College, which was attended by teachers, students and their parents and members of Eamonn Dillon's family. Immediately prior to the ceremony, the students were hosted to a visit to Analog Devices facility in Limerick to meet directly with some members of the engineering team.

Commenting, Brian O'Mara, engineering manager, Analog Devices, said that Eamonn's friends and colleagues at Analog felt the establishment of a bursary programme in his memory would be a fitting tribute to him.

"He excelled at his job and was consistently enthusiastic about the range of opportunities that a role in engineering opened to him," said Mr O'Mara.