

# Crescent work 'doesn't have full backing of all owners'

BY DYPHNA BRACKEN

THE restoration of the Georgian splendour of the Crescent, although well in progress and receiving widespread acclaim, is still not receiving the full support of all the property owners.

The plans for the £300,000 restoration project have already won an EC award.

Recalling the historical importance of the area and its potential for the city, Mayor Quinn this week called for the full co-operation of all the householders in the area.



Minister of State, Willie O'Dea, with Mayor Quinn and Gerry Griffin, chairman of Limerick Civic Trust, at the launch of the Trust's information guide at the Bishop's Palace. (LL)

Denis Leonard, director of the Civic Trust, who are carrying out the work, told the Limerick Leader that the entire project was pulled together as a result of the winning of the £40,000 EC award last year.

Based on that, the majority of the 16 houseowners in the area contributed to the completion of the works.

Restoration work which commenced last month will include sandblasting of all the limestone features, painting of doors and repair of all iron works including balconies and railings, and flood lighting the area.

Work which took three years to plan is expected to be completed by the end of the summer.

"We are aiming to present the Crescent in such a way that it will be a special feature of the city," said Mr Leonard.

"As the only double crescent in this country with a lot of historical importance, it is certainly a tourist attraction," he added.

The O'Connell monument was the first monument to be erected to Daniel O'Connell in the country.

Work on the Trust's other major project was completed this week, when Minister Willie O'Dea launched their new publication, Limerick - An Information Guide.

The 54-page guide, includes an arbitrary selection of dates/events on the city's history compiled by Larry Walsh, curator of the city museum, and a wide range of topics ranging from an extract from Stratens directory 1892, to 20th century art in the street, information on the city's name, motto and treasures.

of the very few larger cities and towns that did not have a specialist guide.

Minister O'Dea complimented the Trust on their publication and also on their restoration work throughout the city.

Mr Griffin, seeking the Minister's support for their next project at the canal, said the Trust had two sites in mind.

One of the sites is at Lock Quay where the Trust plan to develop a public amenity and to preserve the city's only brick bridge.

They further plan to erect

a pedestrian bridge over the canal at Rhebogoe, to develop a riverside walk from Corbally to the university as their contribution to the overall planned river walk from the city to Killybegs.

In due course, the Trust will be preparing a full and detailed plan of their proposals.

"Needless to say" said Mr Griffin "we have no money, but that did not stop us before and we hope that you will be able to assist us and open doors and offers of support for this project."

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