

Minister opens new city art gallery extension

New curator appointed as gallery re-opens after works

Alan Owens

MINISTER of Arts Jimmy Deenihan declared the newly developed Limerick City Gallery of Arts to be "one of the key galleries in the country" when he officially opened the €1.7m redevelopment this Monday.

Speaking at the opening of the development, which has created a new café, social and exhibition spaces and specialised storage facilities for the gallery's permanent collection, Minister Deenihan said that the extensive redevelopment to the Carnegie building was "very important for Limerick".

"I think it is quite exciting and it provides a great opportunity for Limerick to promote itself as a city of culture, it is a city of sport, but I think it can also be a city of culture and it probably could market itself similar to Galway, which has benefited considerably from cultural activities," said the minister.

"These improvements were



Temporary director and curator, Pippa Little pictured with Mayor of Limerick, Cllr Jim Long and Helen Carey, new director and curator at the launch of the newly extended Limerick City Gallery of Art, which was opened by Minister of Arts Jimmy Deenihan TD. Picture: Don Moloney / Press 22

undertaken because they were recognised as critical to the Limerick City Gallery of Art advancing its position as one of the key galleries in the country," he added.

A large crowd of artists, politicians and curious passers-

by witnessed the official opening of two major exhibitions, which were programmed to mark the extension to the gallery, which has played home to the city's municipal collection since 1948.

The building was built

in 1908 and is a protected structure, something architects Hugh Murray and John O'Reilly had to contend with when designing the new wings, which face onto the People's Park.

Mayor of Limerick, Cllr

Jim Long, welcomed the "fine expansion of one of the most iconic cultural institutions in Limerick and indeed the State".

It was also announced that former director of the Irish College in Paris, Helen Carey,

is to take up the role of director-curator of LCGA on a three and a half year contract.

Ms Carey said she was "looking forward" to working in the gallery and increasing its profile and visitor numbers over her term.

Quinlivan urges Education Minister to halt DEIS review

Nick Rabbitts

SINN Fein's northside councillor Maurice Quinlivan has welcomed the announcement from Education Minister Ruairi Quinn that he made a mistake regarding cuts to schools in disadvantaged areas.

But he wants the Labour Minister to act on his comments.

Mr Quinn conceded he had been wrong to announce cuts to hundreds of schools across the country designated as serving disadvantaged communities.

Any cuts in teaching numbers at the schools - code-named DEIS - would see class sizes rise, teachers have warned.

Locally, up to 26 front-line teaching jobs, support posts and legacy positions could be lost in schools, while class



Sinn Fein councillor Maurice Quinlivan wants Education Minister Ruairi Quinn not to bring any cuts to the DEIS scheme, which affects children in less well-off areas.

sizes could grow to as many as 22 students per teacher.

Cllr Quinlivan said: "While I welcome Minister Quinn's admission that he made a mistake in cutting resources for DEIS schools, the minister

should now scrap his review and reverse these cuts immediately. In Limerick City there are 22 DEIS schools, 16 of them cater for primary school children. All of these schools are under threat of

cuts. These cuts if they go ahead will result in the loss of dozens of teachers across the city, teachers who play a key role in ensuring some of our most vulnerable young people stay at school and receive a decent education. In the primary school in Moyross alone it is anticipated that at least five teachers could be lost through these cuts."

Mr Quinn indicated he will review the situation. But Cllr Quinlivan feels this is "no more than a pathetic attempt to cling on to his assertion that his budget proposals protected the most vulnerable children."

Any review should be scrapped, Cllr Quinlivan added. He believes any cuts to teachers, and rises in class sizes, could "alienate a generation of children who will be cast aside".

Youths robbed by man who was 'trolled drunk'

Chronicle reporter

A MAN has been told he faces the possibility of two years in prison after he pleaded guilty to threatening and robbing two young men in the city centre just over a year ago.

Paul Doran, 21, of Nicholas Street admitted taking mobile phones, cash and a cigarette lighter from the two youths at Matthew Bridge in the early hours of January 14, 2011.

Garda Sean O'Hagan said he was alerted to the robbery a short time later as he was dealing with a public order incident involving Doran.

He said the two victims identified Doran to him as the culprit and that their property was recovered from the defendant, who was intoxicated at the time.

Doran later told gardai he could not remember what happened and his barrister Brian McInerney said he had been "trolled drunk" on the night.

"He had consumed a vast quantity of drink and he was not able to stand," said Mr McInerney.

Judge Carroll Moran was told that the Director of Public Prosecutions had directed disposal of the case in the district court but that the presiding judge had refused jurisdiction.

Garda O'Hagan agreed with Mr McInerney that Doran has been "off the radar" since the incident and that he is dealing with "various services" in an effort to address his alcohol problem.

Judge Carroll Moran was told that the defendant has saved €700 and that he wished to offer it as compensation to the two victims.

The judge ordered that they each be given €350 and he adjourned the case until May 15, next for review.

He said if Doran is in any trouble in the meantime he faces the possibility of two years in prison.