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## Review of our midweek e

# An Taisce to object to €20m development of Limerick Boatclub

Proposal for a modern four-storey structure to replace the listed boathouse building faces opposition

### PLANNING

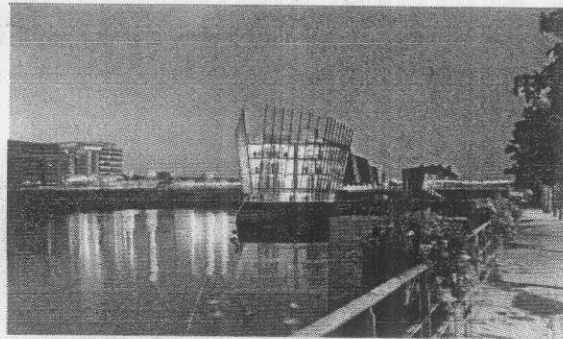
Anne Sheridan

THE heritage body An Taisce have said they intend to lodge an objection against the proposed €20m development on Sarsfield Bridge, which would see the Boatclub demolished in favour of a new modern building which would facilitate the rowing club.

Local An Taisce spokesperson Dan Sullivan said they will also be urging people to lobby their city councillors to ensure the Boatclub, which is a protected structure, is not de-listed and that they do not change the zoning of the site from open use to mixed use development.

### Challenge

"I would challenge each councillor in turn that might seek to renege on their previous position to explain what exactly has changed. It is sad that what was proving to be a thriving alternative music venue was shut down so the Boatclub building could be allowed lie vacant in



The proposed €20million development at the site of the Boatclub, which developer Michael Daly is spearheading

order to justify this application," said Mr O'Sullivan.

He said he agrees that the "boat sheds aren't exactly architecturally inspiring" but believes that the building should be retained.

The public have also been voicing their views on the proposed development on architectural websites and the local Limerick Blogger site since the Limerick Leader exclusively revealed the full plans proposed by Fordmount Developments last week.

Some bloggers described the plans as "a bloody disgrace", while others said they are "bold,

ambitious and certainly a break from the norm." One blogger on the architectural website, [archiseek.com](http://archiseek.com), said: "I can see both sides of the argument - the developers want to create something modern and striking, while others want to see the past preserved." Others said while they liked the designs drawn up by the Belfast based architects McCann Moore, they believed it may not be suitable for that location and instead should be located in another area of the city, such as the docklands.

Concerns regarding traffic flow during construc-

tion, if the development is given the go-ahead by the city planners on June 26, was also expressed as a concern by a number of people.

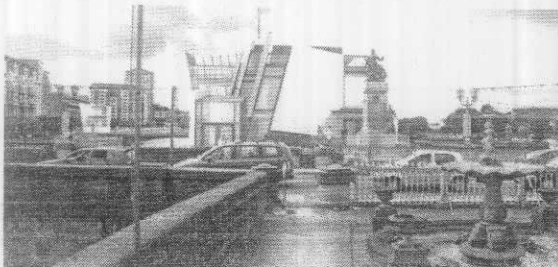
Developer Michael Daly of Fordmount Developments has said he will simply "walk away from the plans" if the public are unhappy with the designs.

"I really hope people will look at these plans and say 'That's fantastic.'

That's the reaction I want to get. If they don't want it, we'll forget about it. It's now a question of whether the city wants this building or not," said Mr Daly.

To date, Labour Cllr Joe Leddin, Fine Gael Cllr Jim Long, Fine Gael Cllr Kevin Kiely have all given the development the thumbs-up.

Limerick Boatclub, who would be rehoused in the new four storey development believe, it is a "win-win situation" for the rowing club. Independent Cllr Kathleen Leddin said she believes the current Boat Club - which is a protected structure - should be upgraded, rather than demolished.



The proposed €20million development as it will appear from Shannon Rowing Club, left, and from Sarsfield Street