

Lights dim on cinema

By John O'Shaughnessy and Marie Hobbins

THERE are no immediate plans for a multi-screen cinema in Bedford Row, as suggested in sections of the media.

And Michael Daly, who heads the development company known as Fordmount, has also denied reports they had purchased a substantial amount of properties in Bedford Row, Henry Street and Sarsfield Street.

"True, we have purchased two units, but no more than that".

Continuing, he said they had earlier informed City Council of their preference for cinemas overhead any proposed retail units in a revamped Bedford Row, "but that was just a vision we had. We have no experience in workings of the film industry".

He confirmed they had not entered into any negotiations with cinema operators, either at home or abroad.

Film distributors have denied any knowledge of a new cinema complex in the city centre, and a

leading operator told the Post that in his opinion, Limerick was not ready for a third outlet.

Back to Mr Daly: "Plans we have in mind for the area are very much down the road at the moment. We have developed one side of Bedford Row and would now like to enhance the opposite side.

"Ideally, we would like to create a street leading from Bedford Row onto Sarsfield Street.

"We have other projects in mind for Limerick".

The current economic climate, he continued, was not conducive to major developments.

The Limerick Post has been made aware that outline plans for a major city centre redevelopment will be discussed with the city manager, Tom Mackey, and the city planners on Thursday.

Mr Daly did not deny suggestions made to this newspaper by reliable sources that Fordmount were involved in talks with other property owners in the area.

While a planning application has yet to be lodged, preplanning discussion will be entered into with the City Hall planners.



Santa Claus took some time out from his busy schedule, at the Old Creamery in Adare recently to read the Limerick Post. The directors management and staff of the Limerick Post take this opportunity to convey their seasonal wishes to our readers and advertisers.

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D-day for Boat Club in January

by Marie Hobbins

THE 'iconic' building planned for the Limerick Boat Club site still rests with Limerick City Council, who expect to make a decision in January.

Michael Daly, who heads Fordmount Development Company, which is behind the Boat Club project, told the Post that they had adopted a wait and see approach.

"There are a few obstacles in the way - first of all, the Boat Club would have to be delisted".

Meanwhile, a reliable source claims City Hall is very well disposed to the project.

The proposed new building has also been mooted as a likely location for the City Library, a restaurant, tourist office, civic area, offices etc.

While the project is provoking strong views from the elected members, with Cllr Kathleen Leddin particularly vocal in denouncing it as "a retrograde step", Cian O'Carroll, president of the Thomond Archaeological Society, told this newspaper that all 75 members of the Society have signed an objection to the planning application.

Continued on page 4.

• weather



MILDER, cloudy conditions with some rain and increasing wind will cool by Sunday. Christmas week looking dry and clear.

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Editorial

Let's face 2009 challenge

AS our next edition will not be out until Thursday, December 27, we take this opportunity to wish all our readers, advertisers and people of Limerick a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas.

Certainly, this year is ending on a note of apprehension and concern for what the new year will bring in terms of the economy and world recession. That concern is justifiable, given the scenario of job losses, a blitz on borrowing, scary reductions in pension plans and a gnawing fear that there may be worse to come.

However, as we all know, people can worry themselves into the grave but that's a defeatist attitude that gets nobody anywhere.

We come from people who have a long and respected tradition for putting their shoulder to the wheel, showing character and getting on with it. After all, when push comes to shove, it's surprising the inner resources we can all find in ourselves.

Scratch most Irish people and there's a generosity of spirit lurking just beneath their skins. That generosity, decency and mutual support may be greatly needed in 2009, so in these last days of 2008, let's make a new year resolution to rise to the challenge, put our best foot forward and show some sterling resourcefulness.

There is always someone worse off than ourselves and as we go into the new year, let's not just be mindful of this but look out for it. Extending the helping hand, however, restricted our own means are, generates new purpose and frequently results in sound ideas and great ventures coming into fruition. All too often we do not realise our full potential or the determination we can have to overcome

D-day for Boat Club in January

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"We have grave concerns for the future of Poor Man's Kilkee and also to the proposed delisting of the Boat Club as a protected structure. We are concerned at proposals to change the city development plan to have the pie and Poor Man's Kilkee rezoned for commercial use. There are also worries about the impact on the nearby Republican monument, as well as the impact on Shannon Rowing Club, Sarsfield Bridge and the view of the river from St Mary's Cathedral".

While Mayor John Gilligan is on record as having serious reservations, strongly in favour is Cllr Joe Leddin, a long-standing member of the boat club, and Labour's Cllr Gerry McLoughlin.

Although two Fine Gael councillors,

Kevin Kiely and Jim Long have also come out in favour, Cllr Michael Hourigan, leader of the FG representation on city council, says:

"We will meet and discuss this issue as a party- it will be a party decision and we will make a statement as a party".

The northside councillor said that he asked the city planner, Dick Tobin if, in his opinion, the boat club and club house which only received Protected Structure status in 2004, should be deemed such.

"The reply I received was "that's very debatable".

Cllr Hourigan said: "In these recessionary times, I support the right for any appropriate job creation - we need development that is sympathetic to the city in terms of history and the environment, while at the

same time supporting economic growth.

"From an architectural point of view - City Hall succeeds because it takes full advantage of the river views compared to King John's Castle. The Granary is another very good example of a new building that works in with the character of the area".

A conservation architect's report, commissioned by the developer, points out that the character of the

clubhouse was effectively destroyed in the 1980s, when the building was refurbished and now displays no trace off the original fixtures and fittings. It also points to severe damage to the brick on both buildings.

It summarises that "the alterations and extensions have left these building in poor condition and with the original character largely missing. The only feature of note that remains is the Belfast roof in the boathouse.

Live Crib in Adare on Sunday

THE Live Crib will be re-enacted in Adare this Sunday ,from 2 to 5pm keeping alive a tradition started 13 years ago.

Entrance is at the side of the Dunraven Arms Hotel and the car park at the back of the Heritage Centre relieves any traffic congestion. A log fire in the yard will keep you warm, mulled wine will lift your spirit and seating is available, if required.

While there is no entry fee, any donations offered will go towards the relief of victims of current world tragedies.

Intercultural fest at City Hall

CITY Hall is host to Limerick City and County Integration Group's intercultural festival, taking place on Thursday 18, from 3.30pm.

In recognition of international solidarity, people are invited to enjoy music, dance and art forms from different countries. There will also be exhibition stands, face painters and magicians, as well as structured events such as Capoeira and hand-drumming workshops, Gospel choir Ellkya at 7.30pm, a Cameroonian performance 8pm and one from Hungary at 8.30pm.

Concert Hall creates company manager title

UNIVERSITY Concert Hall has appointed David Collopy, former chief executive of Opera Ireland, to the new position of company general manager.

"This post was created as a response to the ongoing growth in the number and variety of performances at both University Concert Hall and LIT Millennium Theatre and the board's



Future of Limerick Boat Club still under discussion.

