

# Pass the buck leaves protected building to rot

by Marie Hobbins

A LIMERICK historian is querying the Shannon Foynes Port Company, the Office of Public Works and Limerick City Council, as to why a landmark building on O'Curry Street, made a protective structure in September 2009, is being allowed to further deteriorate.

At a time when developers and landlords come in for a lot of criticism for the run-down state of unfinished and vacant buildings, it appears that none of the relevant bodies involved with the O'Curry Street building, is undertaking maintenance works in accordance with conservation requirements.

The former Garda Station was originally built in 1858 as a home for Limerick sailors and seamen.

This week, the local historian, Dr Tadhg Moloney, takes issue with the Shannon Foynes Port Company regarding the dangerously dilapidated condition of the distinctive stand-alone building.

"I've written to the Port Company advising them that there is no point in the building being deemed a protective structure if no remedial/conservation works are being carried out to it, and I've also been in contact with a planning official in City Hall, who assured me she will raise the issue with her senior



The former Garda Station on O'Curry Street which has been allowed to deteriorate

planner," he told the Limerick Post.

Dr Moloney said the building is now "at the point of terminal dilapidation.

"It could, however, be brought into effective use while retaining its important civic character and significance if relevant conservation work was carried out. However, the port company is trying to get the OPW to carry out the work - the lease goes back to the port company from the OPW at the end of this year".

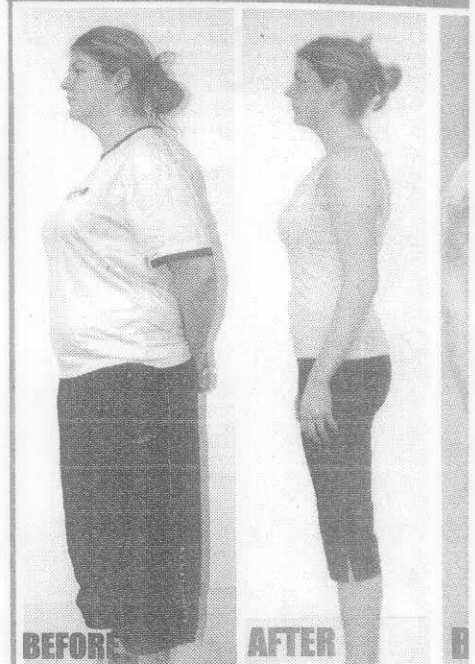
Pointing out that the OPW does have a responsibility to maintain a building occupied by State bodies or owned by the State, Mr Moloney said that on a recent inspection, there were broken windows that are allowing the elements into the building.

"The main staircase leading to the first floor has been severely damaged by rainwater and is in danger of rotting."

There is a perception that the port company considers the building a non core asset that it is anxious to sell.

However, when the company was contacted, its acting chief executive, Pat Keating, was not available for comment.

**SPECIALIST IN 12  
TRAINING 20 MIN  
Tel: 061-326892**



BEFORE AFTER

YVONNE

BEFORE - AFTER 6 MONTHS

**THE BURN**

Simply gain a few extra pounds  
This increases your metabolic rate

**Educo Gym, Ennis Road**

**Tel: 061-326892 / 08**

# JOB-FOCUSED TRAINING