

# Concern over release of rapist

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struggled to break his way out of the boot. They also threatened to set the vehicle alight with him inside.

Four teenagers and a man in his twenties, were charged.

A spokesperson from the Prison Authorities said that they would not comment on individual cases. However, a garda spokesperson said that if he was put onto the Sex Offenders Register, then there would be certain obligations for gardai to monitor him.

A spokesperson from Limerick Rape Crisis Centre said that someone should automatically be put on this register

if convicted of rape or sexual assault.

They also said that the release of a rapist can be an extremely stressful time for the victim as well as the community, who may not feel safe in their localities.

"But even if a rapist is being monitored by gardai, they could still be living beside you without your knowledge. And the gardai have no obligation to inform the local community that an individual is a convicted rapist.

"It can be extremely difficult for a survivor to hear that their assailant's sentence has been cut short. There was one recent high profile case where a man

who got 27 years, was told that he would be out in nine. That is very hard for a victim to deal with and none of the survivors are really prepared for this. In some cases, they are not even informed of the perpetrator's release by gardai. In the past we have had calls from terrified women who have just come face to face with the man who raped them walking up the street. Imagine walking up O'Connell Street and seeing this person. But, in general, the gardai and the probationary services have become much better as regards informing victims in advance, so they can prepare," they said.



THE curtain finally came down on the former Central Studio Cinema in Bedford Row, this week, and as foretold in the Post some weeks ago. It is to be replaced with shops and offices as part of a brand new development.

## City centre con beggars belief

By Pamela Duncan

A NEW influx of beggars have descended upon Limerick city, leading gardai to warn sympathetic people not to conned into parting with money.

Crime Prevention Officer Liam Sheehan, said that a number of Romanian nationals, with Dublin addresses, have taken to the streets hassling people for financial assistance.

He referred to a recent incident during which a foreign national attempted to sell a woman a bunch of flowers and stole 90 euro from her

advised people not to give these individuals money.

"In my opinion, they are clearly doing this for the purpose of making handy money and not because they are in dire straits," garda Sheehan said.

At least four individuals have been arrested for begging by community

gardai in recent weeks in a move to stem the growing problem.

Louise Wilkinson, of homeless service Focus Ireland, advises the public not to give money to homeless people on the streets.

"If people are out on the streets it's usually because they have been evicted from some of the

hostels around town. The services are there in Limerick so there's no reason to be out on the streets. If they are, it is usually because they have some sort of addiction and have burned their bridges in the hostels. People are feeding their habit by giving them money, be it a drink or heroin addiction."

## 'Mothers hooked on heroin' - Ly

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He noted that 10 premises, or about a fifth of the park's houses, are now boarded up because people are leaving. This is despite the fact that the estate is relatively new, built in the late nineties.

He alleged that while Limerick City

But while Cllr Maria Byrne, local council representative, concedes that there is a problem in the estate, she says the council cannot simply evict people.

She agreed that there is a problem in Clarina Park. "The City Council is doing its best to tackle it, but until someone is proven guilty and convicted in the courts,

"We are looking Fitzgerald is looking and we have asked this part of the ci

Cllr Byrne said houses are vacated up, adding that in the park were f

## Opera Cer

PRIOR to going to press the Limerick Post learned that it was to be given later that e posed Opera Centre in Pa Limerick Post revealed three everything was in readiness proceed.. It is understood 1 investors involved travelled Wednesday to rubber stamp t

## Bishops Q closed off

THE entire area of Bishop's off this Wednesday afternoon were fears that windows on t had become loose in high wi

Traffic gridlock ensued as Quay area was closed off. A g said that they closed the an tionary measure.

## Councillors in on susp

UNSOLICITED and public der that they were responsible for l from the planning department offered at a meeting of Limer week. Cllr Kevin Kiely, who fi repeated his claim, substantiate the planning department, that e had removed the file.

"I can't name the person im gorically state that no memb involved," said the Fine Gael cc

A similar denial was offered t on behalf of the Fianna Fail i council.

"We are given a lot of access elected representatives who a people at any time, and an acti planning file from its departme the whole of the planning pro said, Cllr Kieran Walsh said th his Labour colleagues had i Independent councillors, Lily Leddin were equally emphatic involved.

Mayor Joe Leddin stressed take files from the planning de

Cllr Kiely recommended that Environment be requested to and Cllr John Ryan said the c the councillors under the spot

Cllr Kieran O'Hanlon's prop ager would further report bac was agreed to.