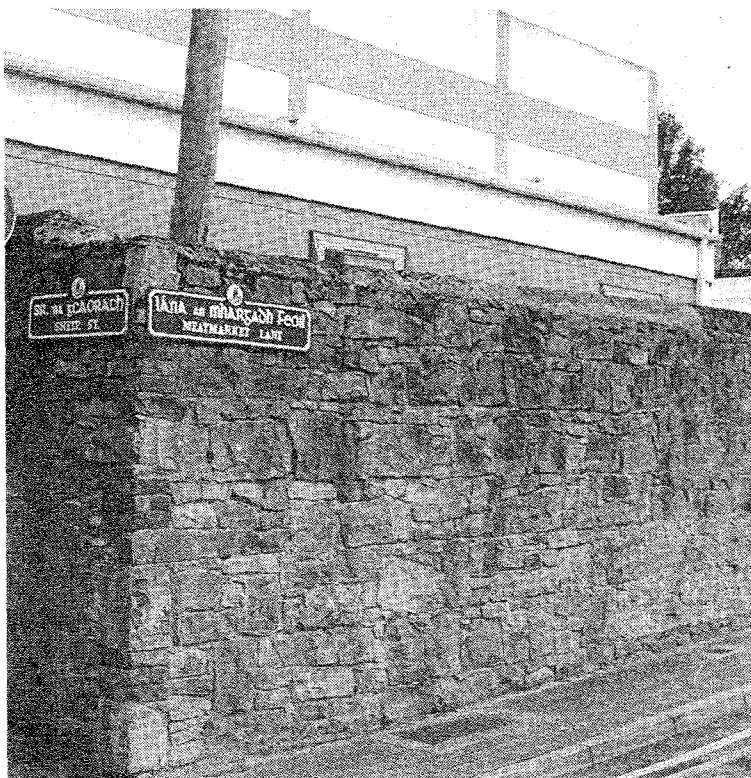
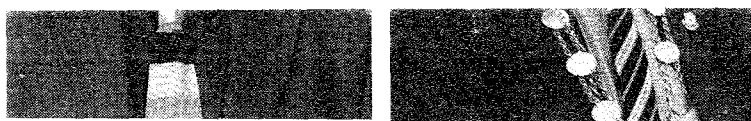


IN VIVES ARE a budget



Mary Street Garda Station is to survive. Cllr Michael Hourigan (top right) expressed concerns at staff cutbacks. Cllr Tom Shortt believes Labour's influence helped maintain social welfare payments.

abbitts

BE being widely mooted victim to government cut-backs, the Mary Street garda station is in open.

ough Public Expenditure Review Brendan Howlin and cuts of €79m from the budget, the city east station has 30 staff attached to it.

he future of the Irish Aid in Henry Street remains to be seen after it was revealed €53m of budget was set to go.

nally, more than 6,000 public positions are set to be cut as the government embarks on cost savings in that sector.

h is set to suffer too, with cuts, and the threshold for the Payment Scheme going up by 32 monthly. There are going to be extra charges on private care in public hospitals.

here was better news for the future of child benefit and social welfare payments, with no cuts to weekly fees. However,

the sector overall will see €475m cut.

Joint policing committee chairman Cllr Michael Hourigan said he would be very concerned about cutbacks in front-line gardai.

"I believe it is important to have the presence of gardai in your area. I would hate to see the garda footfall coming off the street. The presence of uniform has a significant impact on communities," the Fine Gael councillor said.

Labour's Tom Shortt believes his party's presence in government has secured the maintenance of social welfare payments.

"People knew there was a very difficult job to be done in terms of reorientating. From a Labour perspective, we have been reasonably successful today in ensuring that social welfare levels have been maintained, as well as child benefits. This supports families, and we do not want to see children slipping into the trap of poverty and deprivation," he said. While Mary Street survived closure, garda stations in Doon and Shanagolden are to close in 2012.

Limerick man accused of murder to go on trial

Curley

was selected on Monday for trial of a Limerick man accused of murdering another man in the city centre more than 10 years ago.

Coughlan, 29, of the Drive, Greystones, pleaded not guilty to murdering

Greene at the Quay on his own date during the summer of 2009.

body of the 48-year-old, who was originally from Kiltelney but was living at Hartstonge Street, was recovered from the River at Portdrine, Co. Clare



in February - three months after he was reported missing.

When he was formally arraigned at the Central Criminal Court on Monday, Coughlan also pleaded not guilty to the false imprisonment of Mr Greene between

Lower Hartstonge Street and Steamboat Quay on November 28, 2009.

The defendant also pleaded not guilty to assaulting another man at an apartment on Hartstonge Street and to producing a knife during the incident.

The trial was due to begin on Tuesday before a jury of 10 men and two women.

Theatre Royal project set to give work to 30 builders

Continued from page 1

statutory agencies who do recognise that this project can deliver significant regeneration and growth in the city centre.

"I think if the Department of Environment can spend €12.5m buying the site for the Opera Centre, only a quarter of that will turn this cinema into a functional space, which would open the doors for cinema goers, education, media training and more."

Mr Patton confirmed there is enough money already to bring it to the planning stage: "We have been sending out letters to private investors and public bodies. This will see the whole area uplifted."

While the initial plans will see

the old cinema space redeveloped, there is an option in future to expand into the old social welfare office, which neighbours the site.

Former UL lecturer Dave Burns is also involved with the project and said the cinema would be "run commercially".

"We may not get all the first run films that would be coming out, but we would aim to be showing mainstream films and foreign films," he explained.

Mr Patton said talks were "ongoing" with private investors, while the Fresh Film Festival had expressed an interest in locating in the centre.

DO LIMERICK PEOPLE WANT ANOTHER CINEMA? SEE VIEWS FROM THE CITY, PAGE 8

5 webstories

man faces drugs and weapons trial
Limerick minister lands Unicef role
RTÉ stars reveal marriage plans
Munster crowned champions
Village not recognised by Facebook
date with www.limerickleader.ie

weatheroutlook



WEDNESDAY
Gusty day, with westerly winds



THURSDAY
Wet and windy, clearing later



FRIDAY
Some light rain, temperature rising.

top5thingstodo

- 1 Ormston House hosts a new exhibition
- 2 Portland band Lovers play Dolan's (Wed)
- 3 Lola Montez show in Daghdha (Thu-Sat)
- 4 Lesley Garrett in UCH on Thursday
- 5 Old Crescent v Greystones Saturday 2pm