

'We cannot turn back the clock'

WE cannot turn back the clock and accept ugly derelict sites in Limerick, declared Mayor John Quinn this week.

He said that Limerick people must not go back to tolerating a pock-marked streetscape.

He was speaking at a reception at the Bishop's Palace to mark the tenth anniversary of Limerick Civic Trust, and the launch of the trust's ten-year report, "A Decade of Progress," as well as a children's art competition.

He said: "The many projects undertaken by the Limerick Civic Trust have led to a vast improvement in our architectural environment, paved the way for the restoration of old buildings and also contributed to a new sense of civic pride.

"We share in the achievements of the urban renewal programme, and the information of the Limerick Civic Trust was a crucial factor in the encouragement of a new approach to preserving our heritage.

"The Trust has also played an ongoing role in the development of the Heritage Precinct. The restoration of this 17th century building is their contribution to the concept."

The Mayor continued: "Not only is the Bishop's Palace the headquarters of the Limerick Civic Trust but it also accommodates other voluntary organisations and is a civic amenity available for a range of community purposes from specialist exhibitions to small functions.

"The Civic Trust has also compiled useful information on some of the more interesting aspects of Limerick's history and a series



The Mayor, Cllr. John Quinn, and Civic Trust chairman, Ger Griffin, cutting the cake at the 10th anniversary celebrations of the Limerick Civic Trust at the Bishop's Palace this week. Also included are Seamus Gubbins, past chairman, and Denis Leonard, director and founding chairman. (LL)

of tourist related walking trails are now well established throughout the city."

The Mayor declared: "It is a tribute to the energy, enthusiasm and indeed diplomacy of the director, Denis Leonard, that so much has been achieved in the past 10 years.

"In fact there is no greater tribute I can pay to Denis but to quote that well known broadcaster Cathal O Shannon who lived in Limerick for many years. He said:

"Native sons like Denis Leonard had the vision and know-how and the sheer doggedness to start the Limerick Civic Trust, a

body which almost single-handed has tidied up and restored ancient parts of the city."

Mayor Quinn said: "As Mayor of Limerick, I feel that one of the abiding outcomes of all this restoration and revitalisation is the growing self awareness of the people of the city. We can never again accept ugly derelict sites in the city. We cannot turn back the clock. We must not go back to tolerating dereliction and a pock-marked streetscape. We have a new bright shining city. And our pride in its newness is a tribute to the Civic Trust.

"I would like to re-echo

the stirring words of our president, her Excellency, Mary Robinson, when she paid tribute to our city in 1991. She said: "Special praise is due to the Limerick Civic Trust which has initiated some of the most imaginative and exciting projects in recent times. What is particularly appealing about these projects is the manner in which old buildings have been adapted for new purposes and function as living monuments to past glories."

Replying, Gerry Griffin, chairman of the Limerick Civic Trust, said:

"It is my task and respon-

sibility to ensure that the Trust's dramatic growth and success not only continues but develops for the coming decade.

"This development is essential in realising the potential the Trust deserves and can achieve for the benefit of Limerick city and county.

"Our executive has researched a very imaginative and exciting programme of projects which given support could result in (1) a revitalisation of the Crescent, (2) the provision of a pedestrian bridge over the canal, (3) the restoration of St. John's Church and (4) environmental improvements at very many sites throughout the city.

"Let me remind you that ten years ago on this day we made similar forecasts — were proposed and look at what we have achieved — this house has been beautifully reinstated, the Potato Market was restored, we erected a new pedestrian bridge over the Abbey River, in fact we have successfully completed 59 projects with a combined expenditure exceeding £1.6 million.

"Limerick Civic Trust has an enviable record for giving value for money — our records confirm that all donations received from the private sector have been matched eight-fold through government, state agencies and EC grants."



APPLICATION TO PLANNING AUTHORITY

I, Con Collins, wish to apply to Limerick Co. Council for full planning permission to erect 2-storey dwelling with garage, entrance, septic tank and percolation area at Carrigeen Croom. Signed: Con Collins. (120/2997)