

Civic Trust faces a year of hard work

By **PADDY MORONEY**

LIMERICK Civic Trust will be into top gear, early this year, with a number of works to commence shortly.

Two of these relate to works at the Grand Canal and the old city wall at Johnsgate.

The old city walls at Johnsgate have been exposed to view by the

recent developments there, in which a whole new range of houses and accommodation have been built in tasteful style.

Work on this site by the Trust began last autumn, but this is an extensive project which will last well into this year.

It will command a very great deal of the time and resources of the Trust, being the longest section of the old city walls which are still standing.

"It is a very worthwhile site which will be developed into a public ameni-

ty," said chairman Gerry Griffin.

The old walls here are among the most interesting, also, being closest to where the famous breach was made during the Siege and where King William recounted that the women of Limerick, in their courageous defence of their city, were "closest to our men than their own".

The actual site of the breach has been put at the top of John Street, near where it fronts on to St

John's Hospital.

Among those to first storm the breach were King William's Brandenburgers (the area of north Germany between Hamburg and Berlin - it was a European army, in part) who fought fiercely in order to get into the city.

The women of Limerick confronted the Williamite regiments and beat them back to walls following them out over the rubble made at the breach by King William's cannon.

Various estimates put the numbers killed on that

occasion as a few hundred, taking the two sides together.

Few people today who pass along John Street out into St John's Square appreciate the scene of carnage at that very spot three centuries ago.

The Trust has already received planning approval for an amenity development at Lock Quay, which itself fronts on to Baal's Bridge and Clare Street.

The Trust carried out an initial clearance of the undergrowth, during the past year, and now plans to

be on site in the early part of this year.

The development, which effectively tidies up the location and beautifies it, will be open to the public, and will emphasise the natural beauty of the location as well as the antiquity of the scene.

A new canal; footbridge is planned for Rhebogoe, at the northern neck of the canal, and this has already been surveyed. The Office of Public Works is closely involved.