

Launching a Civic Trust for Limerick

By LEADER REPORTER

LIMERICK city is being prepared for a major face-lift, with the aid of international funds including the Carnegie Foundation.

The inauguration of the city's first Civic Trust on Thursday of next week by the Limerick Image Project Committee, will open up access to funds for physical improvement hitherto unavailable to Limerick.

Six projects have been cleared for immediate attention by the committee, and these will be announced at the inauguration of the Civic Trust in the Mary Immaculate Training College on Thursday of next week at 8 p.m.

Address

The public inauguration meeting will be addressed by Dr. David Fletcher, chairman, and recognised driving force behind the Pennine Trust, which has arrested the decline of many old mill towns in West Yorkshire.

Dr. Fletcher will identify areas of Limerick for development and assist the Limerick Civic Trust in its foundation. Mr. Michael Noonan, Minister for Justice, will attend the inauguration.

At a preliminary press conference this week, the chairman of the Limerick Image Project Committee, Mr. Denis Leonard, said that local authorities and other state agencies could no longer be expected to meet all of society's needs in relation to the protection and enhancement of the environment.

The proposed new trust will be registered as a charitable organisation and will have access to foundations and trusts abroad which make grants for physical improvement, the conservation of historic sites and the removal of urban eyesores.

Europe

Mr. Leonard said that he had already made representations to the European Parliament for help in certain projects.

"Our aim, in this regard," he said, "is to give Limerick a better physical appearance."

"The rewards of a successful civic trust are limitless," he said, "and we are all deeply concerned with the betterment of Limerick."

It was not, he said, another half baked idea, but had been fully researched. Already the commit-



At the Limerick Image meeting (from left): Anton O'Carroll, Walter Verling, Denis Leonard, Marie Wallace, John Stapleton, Pat Lynch.

tee had raised up to £4,000 and they had the unqualified support of nine individuals of high rating in the city £100 each had been contributed by committee members.

Invitations

Two hundred invitations have been issued to the official launching of the trust next week, including representatives of Limerick Corporation and County Council, community associations, state and public bodies, industrialists and educationalists.

The Image Project Committee represents more than 20 organisations interested in the conservation

and improvement of the physical environs of Limerick. Two years have already been spent researching the project and identifying areas for improvement.

Membership of the new trust will be open to all individuals, businesses and associations concerned with the improvement of Limerick, and the membership will elect an executive committee and officers.

Mr. Kevin O'Connor, Chamber of Commerce, pointed out at this week's press conference that the Image Committee was still grap-

pling with other problems affecting Limerick's image, particularly the policing of the city.

Litter

A sub-committee had been investigating the litter problem for the past two years.

Present at the announcement of the new Limerick Civic Trust were Denis Leonard, chairman Image Committee; John Stapleton, president, Junior Chamber; Marie Wallace, Shannon Development; Kevin O'Connor, Chamber of Commerce; Annette O'Donnell-Devine and Jerri Mullane, Junior Chamber; Walter Verling, An Taisce; Kate O'Callaghan, do.; Pat Lynch, Muintir na Tire; Anton O'Carroll, Round Table, and Cathal O'Shannon Aughinish Alumina.

