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New life for docklands

by Marie Hobbins

LIMERICK is set for a major revival as a working docks, and the Shannon Foynes Port Company is no longer seeking a relocation of port activities from the city.

In a submission from the SFPC for Limerick City Council's Development Plan, it is stressed that the docks would be protected, separate from the development of the general docklands area. The submission is also seeking that short sea shipping be recognised as a sustainable means of transport, and that bulk warehousing be promoted.

Four years ago, city councillors unanimously blocked the sale of the Ted Russell Docks by refusing to rezone it for commercial use. They threatened, that in the event of closure, they would vote against any planning application submitted.

It is a reserve function of the councillors to adopt this plan, which could also see the docks become a viable operation for the overhauling and maintenance of shipping vessels.

The SFPC recommends the promotion of the 16.9 hectare Ted Russell Docks as a "fully working dock facility for the foreseeable future."

Part of the submission states: "It appears that the Draft Development Plan continues to promote the relocation of the city's industrial port facilities to Foynes, as part of the riverside city initiative,

which is in direct conflict with the long term development plan of the Shannon Foynes Port Company and the provisions of the Harbours Act 1996-2009, and the Ports Policy as issued by the Minister in 2005".

The SFPC submission calls for acknowledgement of the economic significance of the working docks in the city's Development Plan, "along with its existing and potential economic contribution to the Mid West Region".

Extending a "cautious welcome" to the recommendation for upgrading the city's docks, Cllr Jim Long said it is the only location where scrap metal is stored and exported in the whole of the region - my consideration would be that if they could get this removed from the Limerick Docks, they could say there is no business there.

"The remit of a working docks is import and exports, and only for the recycled metal business, that is not the case in Limerick. If SFPC is serious, they must encourage exports and imports to create local employment and also develop a viable operation for the overhauling and maintenance of shipping".

Added justification for upgrading the docks is based on confirmation that frequently ships have to berth for three days at Ballylongford before they can gain entry to Foynes Harbour. There are berthing spaces for 10 ships in Limerick, compared to four in Foynes.



Ranked 6th in the iTunes news category, the Limerick Post Newspaper launched their new free iPhone application this week - a first for local news direct to your phone. Eleanor Fitzgerald and Lydia Turley were on hand to let the Limerick public know that you can follow the latest local news, sport, entertainment and much more making this your only app for Limerick news. Search 'Limerick Post' on the iTunes App Store. Photo - Brian Arthur / Press 22

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Asbestos dumped outside gate
By Rebekah Commans

Cllr Wade demands stiffer penalties

A LARGE quantity of asbestos roofing was abandoned at a farm gateway just outside the city last weekend, leading to an outraged Cllr Eddie Wade, to call for stricter penalties against those who resort to illegal dumping.

Cllr Wade, who once had to deal with 14 bags of waste deposited at his own house, told the Limerick Post that a substantial amount of the dangerous material was dropped outside the gate of a neighbouring farmer, in Cahemorry.

"It's a very narrow road so it looks like someone made a big effort to come down here and throw it in by the farm. There is quite a large amount of it and of course, the farmer is very annoyed, especially in that it poses a health hazard.

"At least, the gate was closed because it's silage season, otherwise, he would have been trying to move cattle past it".

Continued on page 4.

weather
FEELING more like summer for the weekend with dry and sunny weather on Friday. Sunny periods through the afternoon on Saturday and dry with variable cloud for Sunday. Temps 15 to 20degC.

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