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City is close to finalising location of Richard Harris statue

By CLODAGH O'LEARY

PLANS have been finalised to commemorate one of Limerick's most famous and controversial sons—actor Richard Harris—in the city centre, it emerged this week.

Months after the proposal to erect a statue in tribute of the two-time Oscar nominee was unanimously supported by all 17 city councillors, the location of the statue has finally been pinpointed.

And it is expected that the piece,

sculpted by Limerick-born artist Jim Carroll, will be in place on Bedford Row by next Spring.

Chairman of the Council's Cultural and Sporting Committee, Cllr Kevin Kiely confirmed that a meeting to discuss the final details was held in City Hall some weeks ago.

"A sub-committee formed especially for the project met to discuss two possible locations on Bedford Row. And we had to meet with the sculptor to get his views on the location," explained Cllr Kiely.

Cllr Pat Kennedy also held talks with the Harris family to get their views on the location of the statue.

"Everything has now been put in place, and we hope to unveil the statue in six months' time. We have agreed to place it alongside the new Savoy development, which we hope, will tie in with its completion date," explained Cllr Kiely.

Meanwhile, plans to commemorate the actor in Kilkee are also progressing.

Project Director Manuel di Lucia said a special celebration in

honour of Mr Harris, who spent many summers in the resort, has been organised for Saturday September 30 next.

A host of Hollywood stars have been invited to attend including Russell Crowe, Peter O'Toole and Pierce Brosnan.

"We have not received any acceptances yet. But it has been confirmed that Richard Harris' three sons, Damian, Jarid and Jamie, will attend, which we are delighted about," said Mr di Lucia.

Five people lodged objections

with Clare County Council when plans for the statue were initially submitted, but the Council decided not uphold them, and granted permission.

"We now have to wait 28 days to see if the objectors wish to appeal to An Bord Pleanala, but regardless of that, we will go ahead with the celebration," said Mr di Lucia.

However, not everyone is keen to commemorate Mr Harris' memory, Prospect resident and community activist Sean O'Neill claimed that the actor spent more time in the

Bahamas than in his native city or Kilkee.

Instead he proposed a memorial to the Limerick writer and founder of the Sugawn Theatre in London, JM O'Neill, who retired to Kilkee where he wrote the award winning novel of Limerick life, Bennett and Company."

"I understand that a literary weekend is now being planned in London to pay tribute to this overlooked Limerick writer and it would be ideal if Kilkee also honoured him," concluded Mr O'Neill

Declan revs up for world 'super' championships after UK victory

By AINE DE PAOR

A COUNTY Limerick man has turned an ordinary Nissan into a turbo-charged super car complete with seven televisions and scooped

first prize at the Britain's top car show.

Declan Dore will now represent Ireland at the world championships in Paris next year.

The 24 year-old spent tens of thousands of euro souping up the Nissan Skyline, which, he said, "is like a car on steroids".

He took out the back seats and used the space for speakers, he replaced the old doors with ones from a Lamborgini, then he installed television screens in the doors and dash.

But it's all in a days work for Declan who customises cars for a living. A panel beater by trade,

he decided to branch out last year and took on car modifications.

The Curraghchase man discovered that there was a good a market for customised cars—some of it fuelled by television shows such as Pimp my Ride.

Declan said youngsters were paying up to €20,000 to soup-up their cars.

"At the moment I have a customer spending €8,000 on a 1985 Ford Capri," he revealed.

And the most popular request is for a state-of-the-art repaint job, which can cost up to €5,000.

Modifications started out as a hobby for Declan, but his growing success on the contest circuit helped him decide to concentrate on it full time.

He was the first Irish person to win at the Max Power show in England, and last month he took first at the 100 per cent Modified car show in Dublin.

Now he is gearing up



One step at a time: Emma Moloney 4 from Effin shows off her new walking skills helped by Dr Senthil Periyasamy of St Joseph's Foundation, Charleville
Picture: Owen South (LL)

Disabled therapy is 'not magic'

By DEIRDRE McGRATH

A FEW months ago four-year-old Emma

difference after 10 days. I have noticed an improvement in her muscle tone and her overall strength has

Ms Keating O'Connor said that Becky had become physically and mentally stronger and was now standing with

"This is not magic, it is the result of hard work and dedication by both myself and the

It consists of a series of pulleys, straps and splints which are used to perform a variety of