

whereabouts. Noel Kelly, from Limerick city, is on the most wanted list and was subject to a major television expose on Monday, when police in Kent made an appeal looking for information.

Kelly, returned to Limerick from England last year and has been living in a house in the Raheen area of the city.

"He has been working in a factory out in Raheen and when his colleagues saw the programme they immediately rang us here in Limerick and the special number given on the

BBC television programme," one local detective told me.

Detectives in Kent, confirmed that they received numerous calls from Limerick with information about Kelly.

"We did not know he was in Limerick. At this time we have lots of leads we are following up," a spokesman at Kent Police

**On the run: Noel Kelly**

station told me.

"We have an incident room set up. We have received good information, but what we need now is anything current. We have got a good history," the police spokesman told me.

On the Crime Watch UK site it states: "Noel Kelly is wanted on 17 counts of rape, indecency with chil-

driven investigations and information made by detectives in Kent over the past number of months into a number of serious sex crimes, led to the appeal for information on Kelly earlier this week.

It is understood that Kelly is not wanted for any crimes in Ireland, though Gardai could not officially confirm this at the time of going to press.

The incident room telephone number in England is 01634 792 320. If you ring from Limerick the number is 0044 1634792320.

By DAVID HURLEY

**THE man behind the multi-million euro action plan to regenerate Southill and Moyross has dismissed suggestions that it is a "political con job."**

Galbally native, John Fitzgerald, was speaking during his first extensive interview, following the Cabinet decision, on Tuesday, to fully endorse the plans, which include the deployment of an additional 100 Gardai and the demolition of over 1000 houses.

"There were suggestions at the beginning that this was a political con job and that it was a scape-goating exercise. I never thought that and I haven't seen the slightest evidence anywhere, from the very top political level to the top of the departments at official level," he told the Limerick

Leader. "I've seen noting but absolute commitment. Everybody realises that it is an horrendous situation for individual citizens of this state to be under intolerable pressure as they are in some areas," he added.

This Thursday, the former Dublin City Manager, briefed local councillors, politicians and other relevant agencies about the content of his report.

"The recommendations were clear enough to me, from the outset, but the fact that they have gone to cabinet and they have been accepted by the Cabinet, in full, is a fairly serious endorsement of the problem that exist. The fact that the cabinet has accepted all of the recommendations is also a fairly strong endorsement of what needs to be done to sort it out," he stated.

John Fitzgerald insisted the problems,

in areas such as Moyross and Southill, are not unique but he did express some surprise at the extend of the problems he encountered.

"I have not seen anything here that I have not seen before, elsewhere and that has not been dealt with before, elsewhere. I pointed that out to all of the communities on both northside and southside, whom I met with. However, I have to say that the severity of what I have seen here and the concentration of it in certain areas is quite shocking and the kind of conditions and the intimidation and the pressures on people — sometimes older people and vulnerable people — is just intolerable and it is just not acceptable, it would not be acceptable anywhere else and it certainly should not be acceptable here and you know these are problems being

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**All party support for Fitzgerald's plan**

By MIKE DWANE

**BOTH** alternative governments would fund the multi-million plans to regenerate Limerick's disadvantaged communities, according to councillors who were briefed by the plans author and architect, John Fitzgerald this Thursday.

"I think the Government is totally committed to funding the whole project. John Fitzgerald has said that and so have Government Ministers. I hope it won't become an election issue because its much too serious a business we have to deal with," said Fianna Fail's Cllr Kieran O'Hanlon, adding he expected it would take "hundreds of millions" to bring the plans to fruition.

And Cllr Diarmuid

Scully, Fine Gael, said "from conversations I've had with Enda Kenny, there is support on the other side of the House for these recommendations. I think regardless of the outcome of the general election, this report will be implemented, the work is going to be done."

Labour's Cllr James Houlihan, a resident of Southill said he was confident, that so serious an issue would have "cross-party support."

Mr Fitzgerald briefed councillors for 90 minutes in a private meeting this Thursday morning and those who spoke to the Limerick Leader unanimously endorsed the plans, with only

minor reservations.

Labour's, Cllr Gerry McLoughlin noted that the 100 extra gardai would work to a roster, meaning only about 30 would be on the beat at any one time. Chairman of the joint policing community, Cllr Kevin Kiely, Fine Gael echoed this, saying he was looking for at least 120 officers. He has also expressed concern over where the extra gardai would fit.

"I'm disappointed there's nothing in the report for the upgrade of Henry Street Garda Station that we were promised by the Government seven years ago. Henry Street is run-down, it doesn't have proper facilities and both

the number of cells and the accommodation for gardai already working there isn't adequate," Cllr Kiely said.

He is calling for the 100 gardai for the crisis areas to be based in Mary Street Garda Station, which should be refurbished and re-opened. Apart from the 100 gardai being headed by a superintendent, Cllr Kiely said there would be three inspectors and six sergeants, adding this will mean "gardai who have worked so hard in Limerick over the years now have a chance of promotion."

Independent councillor John Gilligan was very positive on the plans in general but when asked if

he had any reservations said:

"We have to look at the question of us building new houses on the one hand, and thugs happily burning them down on the other, that's going to stop. I did make the point that when we start to implement this report, the day we allow one more person being evicted or driven out of their house and then seeing the house being burnt down by criminals and gangsters is the day we can forget about this report. That's the litmus test. We have to make a stand and we have to win."

After meeting councillors and senior officials this morning, Mr Fitzgerald later held briefings with TDs, with community groups and the social partners.

**WHAT THE PEOPLE THINK: Pages 14-15**

**New Harris statue to be unveiled in June**

By ANNE SHERIDAN

**A DRAMATIC** six foot bronze statue of the late Limerick actor Richard Harris will be unveiled on Bedford Row this June by the Harris family, the local sculptor Jim Connolly and Limerick City Council.

Noel Harris, brother of the Hollywood star, told the Limerick Leader that his close family are eagerly anticipating the moment when the statue is unveiled.

"I've been sworn to secrecy. I haven't even discussed it with my own family. If I asked everyone in the family I'd get 30 ideas of how to portray him; everybody has their own impression of him. All I can say is that it's a very dramatic statue of him in his prime and he's in character. When people see it they won't have to



**Richard Harris: dramatic statue to be unveiled in the city in June** (LL)

question who he is," said Mr Harris.

Sheila Deegan, arts officer with the city council, said the motion was passed by the council in late 2005 and Mr Connolly was chosen to do the project, as he personally knew Richard Harris. "It will recognise all of Har-

ris' achievements - his involvement in sport, acting and poetry. It's a very interesting pose and will be a very welcome addition on Bedford Row, near the Bank of Ireland," said Ms Deegan.

However, Mr Harris would only confirm that the statue won't depict his

role as the Bull McCabe in John B. Keane's The Field, which earned him an Academy Award nomination. "It wouldn't do justice to him. He could be anyone with a beard and that was much later in his life, as was Gladiator," he said.

Mr Harris said the initiative is not a family project and paid tribute to Limerick City Council and in particular, Cllr Pat Kennedy. "This is his project; he is the driving force. He said to me four years ago 'I'm going to make sure Limerick honours this man,'" he said.

He added that he couldn't have hoped for a better sculptor to depict his brother in his prime. "He's very well known and very renowned. I have found him to be an extraordinarily talented man," he said of Mr Connolly.

While nearly all members of the Harris family

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