

# St Mary's Park plan on cards for end of year

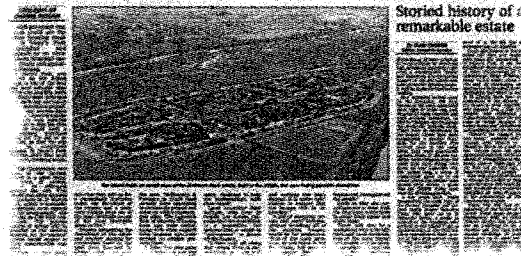
By DAVID HURLEY

LIMERICK City Council have confirmed they hope to bring radical proposals for the regeneration of St Mary's Park before the Council before the end of this year.

As revealed by the Limerick Leader last week, the plans, if agreed, could see the entire housing stock in St Mary's Park being demolished and replaced with an ultra-modern financial centre, hotels and upmarket housing.

A special steering group, chaired by the city manager, Tom Mackey, was formed earlier this year, and includes senior officials from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government,

## ALL HOUSES IN ISLAND FIELD COULD FACE DEMOLITION



Storied history of a remarkable estate

Last week's Limerick Leader story which revealed the plan for St Mary's Park

which will fund the regeneration programme.

It is understood the committee have met on several occasions, and that work on the draft proposals is at an advanced stage.

"We have engaged the services of Ennis-based Tom McNamara & Partners as consultants to work with Limerick City Council and the Department to draft a

strategy for the regeneration of St Mary's Park," said Paul Foley, Limerick City Council. "It is expected the strategy will be put before the Council at the beginning of the autumn. It is envisaged it will be the first of the regeneration schemes to be rolled out in the city."

The recent John Fitzgerald report proposed radical regenera-

tion programmes in Southill and Moyross.

Informed sources have confirmed that one strong possibility is that the Council could end up drafting compulsory purchase orders for the 480 or so houses in St Mary's Park, so that the site can be completely cleared.

"The Corporation own most of the houses, which is a good thing. Everyone, of course, would be rehoused around the city. This would also allow 40 acres at the back of St Mary's Park, which is currently landlocked, to be opened for development," one official at City Hall confirmed.

It is understood that the consultants will meet with four local councillors early next month to gauge their views and to share ideas. Also early in May, there will be a walkabout with city officials and local residents.

## Harris statue will show actor in his major roles

By ANNE SHERIDAN

THE statue of actor Richard Harris, which it is hoped will be unveiled on Bedford Row within the next month, will depict the actor in four of his prime roles: Camelot, This Sporting Life, The Field and Gladiator, and will also include an extract from his 1972 poem, There Are Too Many Saviours On My Cross.

Cllr Pat Kennedy, a close friend of the actor, revealed to the Limerick Leader this week the details of this unique six-foot bronze sculpture, which is currently being modelled by Limerick sculptor Jim Connolly. He said it will perfectly complement a modern city trying to

break away from a crime-ridden past.

"The extract from the poem is very much in line with the theme of peace, not war, and the hope is that the city of Limerick will no longer live out our ancient motto of being accustomed to the bitterness and pursuit of war. We need to look towards a modern, peaceful city, where people can live out constructive lives. Harris was very committed to peace, and was a deeply principled man" said Cllr Kennedy.

The chosen extract from Harris' poem states:

*"I hear your cries in the far-off byways, and your mouth pointing north and south, and my Calvary looms again,*

*desperate in rebirth. Your earth is partitioned but in contrition it is the partition in your hearts that you must abolish."*

Cllr Kennedy said the films chosen to depict Harris "pinpoint his achievements over his long acting career. "The whole idea is that Limerick should honour one of its best-known native sons."

Harris' role as King Arthur in Camelot will form the main focus of the four-panelled sculpture, where it shows him standing and holding a sword reversed, to indicate peace. The 1963 film, This Sporting Life, has been incorporated as it "launched a remarkable acting debut" and won Harris his first Academy

Award nomination. The 1990 film, The Field, reinvigorated Harris' career, and led to his second Academy Award nomination.

Cllr Kennedy also felt that the "location is very appropriate due to the theatrical associations with Bedford Row."

Richard Harris' three sons, Damien and Jamie, who live in Los Angeles, and Jared, who lives in London, are expected to attend the ceremony in late May or early June.

His first wife, Elizabeth Rees Williams, is also expected to be present at the launch.

The Belltable Arts Centre are also screening a series of films this June in memory of the actor who died five years ago.

Welcome: Rudy Bau

# Marri

By AINE FITZGERA

COMPRISING 94 rooms and eight de-suites, the €100m Marriott Hotel developn on Henry Street prom to bring a new experie of hospitality to Lime when it opens on May

And for those w penchant for fine cui the hotel, they recruited Tony Schw, formerly head-chef of Mustard Seed Ballingarry, to lead t culinary team.

Part of the world's Marriott Internati brand, the Limerick riott Hotel will be sixth Marriott Hote open in Ireland and first in Munster.

Situated on the sit the old Savoy Theatre hotel boasts all the rries of a modern h with added extras suc valet parking and raced gardens.

The hotel will be c ated by Irresistible E Limited, a sister comp of Castletroy Park I agement Limited, operate the Castle

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