

talks at element six

By ANNE SHERIDAN

MINISTER for Defence Willie O'Dea has called on parties involved in the dispute at Shannon company Element Six to attend talks at the Labour Relations Commission "without any preconditions".

In a statement issued yesterday, Minister O'Dea said "dialogue is the only method by which these jobs can be saved."

"I urge all parties to engage in dialogue without any pre-conditions at the Labour Relations Commission. It is vitally important for the workers and management as well as for the local and national economy that talks get underway without delay."

Minister O'Dea said he has met with all sides involved in this dispute but has now urged all parties to start talks at the Labour Relations Commission.

"There is everything to be gained," he concluded.

The company is offering redundancy to some

207 workers of two and a half weeks wages for every year of service, on top of the two-week statutory payment.

However, 150 workers who accepted a redundancy deal last January received substantially more - eight weeks for every year with the company.

Last week, UK-based chief executive of Element Six, Cyrus Jilla, circulated a letter to staff in which he threatened that the company would have to review whether it could afford to fund pension liabilities if industrial action was taken at the plant.

In response, up to 400 people took part in a march last Thursday to show their anger at recent threats by management.

SIPTU branch organiser Mary O'Donnell said the company "should stick to agreements reached and put local management in a position to negotiate, rather than threatening loyal employees."

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DEATHS

CARRIER; TERRY Clarke Avenue, Janesboro, Limerick. August 23rd 2009 after a short illness at Mayo General Hospital. Very deeply regretted by his wife Jean, son's, daughter's, extended family, relatives and friends. Removal from Cross's Funeral Home today Monday at 7.30pm to St Michael's Church, Pery Square. Service tomorrow Tuesday at 11.30am with burial afterwards to Castlemungret cemetery.

SKEHAN (NEE SLATTERY) Bridie, Thomondgate, Limerick and formerly of High Road Thomondgate, August 23rd 2009 (peacefully) in the kind care of the staff of St Camillus Hospital. Wife of the late Gerry. Very deeply regretted by her loving son Jerry, daughter in law Maria, grandchildren Jennifer and David, brothers Michael and John, sisters Phyllis, Mary and Harriet, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends. May she rest in peace. Removal from Cross's Funeral Home today Monday at 7pm to St Munchin's Church, Requiem Mass tomorrow Tuesday at 11am with burial afterwards to Mount St Laurence (ext) cemetery.

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Labour councillor, Joe Leddin, said he was pleased that Mr Mackey had thrown cold water over the reports.

He believes that the Fine Gael party, who hold an absolute majority on Limerick City Council, might be considering introducing a poll tax and were

City Manager has rubbished the story," he said. "I have always found him to be co-operative and upfront with members of the council. I would have been surprised if he had come out with a report without consulting councillors."

Cllr John Gilligan said he would not have been surprised if reports on the so-called 'communitary charge' were true.

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Legislation must be passed in the Dail to allow local authorities impose a charge or tax on people, and no legislation exists

start it would have been a non-starter," he said. "The economy is in a shambles not because of local councillors but because of property speculators aided and abetted by the Government." He said if a proposal to introduce a poll tax ever came before the council for approval, he would not "throw everything into reverse and introduce extra taxes".

'Harris' house in Kilkee sold for €580,000

By ALAN OWENS

A KILKEE house that formerly belonged to Richard Harris has sold at auction for €580,000.

'The Billows', located on the West End of the Co. Clare seaside resort, attracted a strong crowd to the Stella Maris Hotel in Kilkee for the auction last Friday.

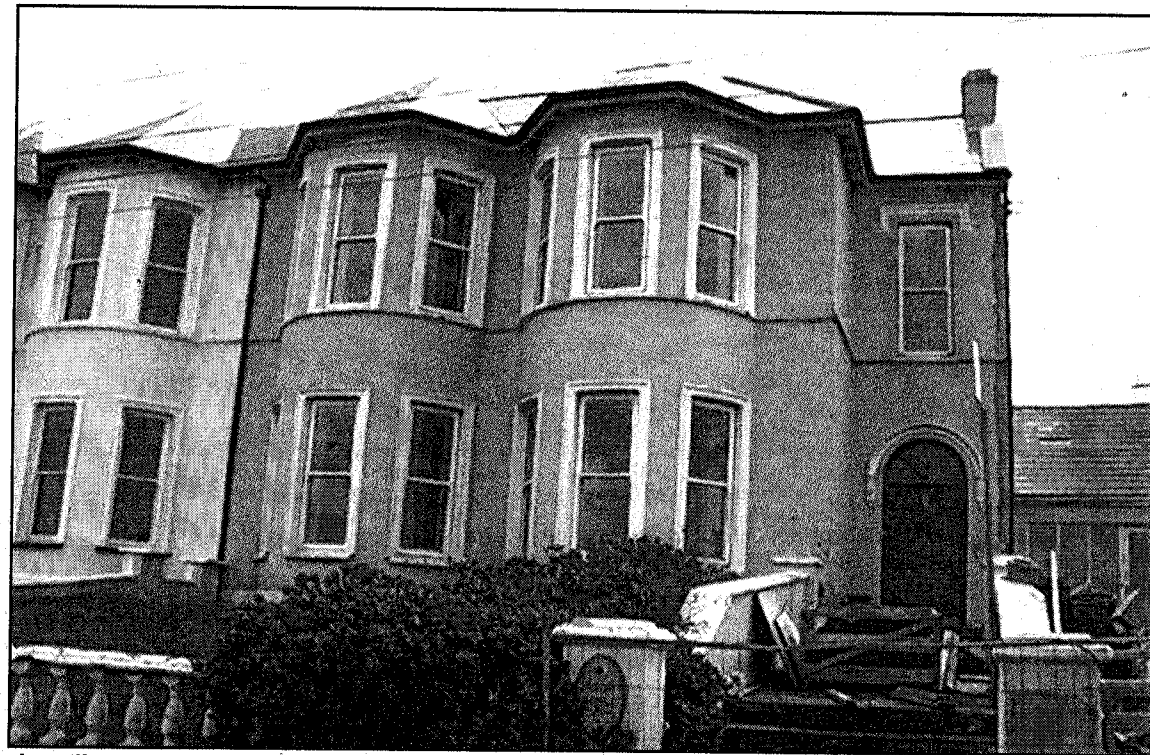
Tom Cross, auctioneer with GVM in Limerick, was responsible for the sale and told the Limerick Leader that there was a "packed auction room" present for the sale.

"The house opened at €500,000 to a packed auction room, in excess of 50 people," explained Tom.

"There were three bidders and it went for €580,000," he added.

While the winning bid was conducted by a solicitor, it is understood that the representative was acting for a Limerick-based couple who intend renovating the property and using it as a holiday home. Harris bought the house in 1969, leaving it in the stewardship of his close friend and Kilkee native, Manuel Di Lucia, who acted as local agent for the sale.

Hell-raiser Harris was known to be huge fan of



The Billows, once owned by Richard Harris has been sold at auction for €580,000

Kilkee, often staying in the Strand, Victoria and Hydro hotels. While he owned the house for five years, he only stayed there once however.

"Dickie owned it for five years but only ever spent one night in it, that is all, that is a fact,"

said Manuel recently.

A plaque outside the house claims that Harris "had his Kilkee house here".

Harris, however, did renovate the house at "great expense", shipping furnishings bought in London to the seaside

village.

The house is over 120 years old, but is located in a stunning and much sought after area of Kilkee, boasting expansive views of the bay from its large bay windows. Harris sold the house in 1974 and it was

sold again the following year for £13,150 when the owner went bankrupt.

Others, including two Limerick men, have owned it subsequently. It was sold for £350,000 in 1999 before being sold last Friday to its new Limerick owners.

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