

Poor Man's Kilkee works

HOWLEY'S Quay and Poor Man's Kilkee in the city centre could be due for a major facelift with Shannon Development chief executive Dr Vincent Cunnane "confident" of securing a "significant" investment.

Working with Limerick City Council, Shannon Development aims to transform the area with boardwalks, street furniture and new paving, similar to the works completed on Clancy and O'Callaghan Strands. An application for tourism infrastructure under the National Development Plan is in its final stages, Dr Cunnane said.

Recycling fun at city park

THE European Recycling Platform is having upcoming Recycling Party which offers Limerick families lots of fun for free in return for their WEEE! (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment). In conjunction with Limerick City Council and as part of Limerick Heritage Week, a fun filled family event will take place at the People's Park on August 20 from 12pm to 3pm. ERP invite the public along to the recycling themed fun day where the Be Free Recycling Team including animated characters Captain Recycle and Tela Vision, will be hiding in the People's Park.

Rugby World Cup bid

ANY game Limerick can stage as part of the 2013 Rugby League World Cup would be worth €2 million in revenue to the local economy, according to Shannon Development.

As the agency launched its annual report for 2010 at the Strand Hotel on Tuesday, it said it was working with the Shannon Region Conference and Sports Bureau on a bid to stage World Cup games at Thomond Park. England and Wales are the competition hosts but it is hoped they can be persuaded to stage at least one game in Limerick two years from now.

Attack in phone store

A STAFF member at the Vodafone store on O'Connell Street in Limerick city has been beaten up by two males, who gardai believe attempted to rob the premises in the early hours of yesterday morning.

A man was opening up the shop at around 8.30am when he was "set upon" by two males, and suffered minor injuries to his face. He was taken to the Mid-Western Regional Hospital.

Gardai at Henry Street are appealing for anyone who was in the area between 8am and 9.30am and who may have seen something suspicious to contact them on 061-212400.

Local philanthropist honoured at City Hall as link added to mayoral chain

JP set to be a part of history

PHILANTHROPIST JP McManus is due at City Hall today for a special ceremony honouring his contribution to the city.

A link is to be added to the historic mayoral chain of office at a low-key ceremony, which will be attended by former Mayor Kevin Kiely, current Mayor Jim Long and the families of Mr McManus, and Limerick football club chairman Pat O'Sullivan, who has funded the link.

The medallion was crafted by city jeweller JJ Kenneally's.

Cllr Kiely is the first politician to add a link to the chain since 2007 when the then Mayor Joe Leddin added a link to honour the contribution the Keyes and Leddin families made to the city.

During his mayoralty, Mr McManus' horse 'Don't Push It', ridden by AP McCoy, rode to victory in the 2010 Grand National.

Following this, the Martins-town man was honoured with

NICK RABBITTS
News Reporter

a civic reception. Now, Cllr Kiely has invited JPMcManus to City Hall.

The new medallion will be the 77th solid gold piece on the Mayoral chain.

Speaking ahead of today's ceremony, sponsor Mr O'Sullivan said: "Countless groups and individuals have benefited in ways they could only dream about, through the generosity of the McManus family. In times like we have presently, the region is very lucky to have such an inspiring and generous family within our community."

The history of the Mayoral chain stretches back to the early 19th century.

Mayoral chains were uncommon in Britain and Ireland before this and in 1820 four gold chains of office were purchased.

Two were for the Mayor and the other two were for each of the sheriffs.



At City Hall: JP McManus will attend a special ceremony this morning at City Hall, to be hosted by Mayor Jim Long.

PICTURE: OWEN SOUTH

Twenty properties bought by City Hall this year

THE PROPERTY crash could boost Limerick City Council's property portfolio as City Hall have already bought 20 homes to date this year.

One city councillor even asserted that such has been the downturn that homes in exclusive parts of the city - such as the North Circular and South Circular Roads - are now being snapped up at bargain prices.

But Kieran Lehane, director of service at City Hall, said he was not aware of any homes being purchased in these two areas.

Mr Lehane said the number of properties they have bought to date this year is "low", but more deals are on the way un-

ANNE SHERIDAN
News reporter

der the council's €46m housing budget.

Of that figure, €35m has been earmarked for Regeneration projects, which would include relocation of individuals or families from these disadvantaged estates, but Mr Lehane said the number of people leaving regeneration areas is low at present.

It is understood that the council has a budget in the region of €200,000 to spend per house, and are cashing in on bargain properties as people are desperate to sell.

With many home-owners in

negative equity and looking to off-load their investments, there is a glut of properties on the market, with over 3,000 for sale in Limerick.

Mayor of Limerick, Fine Gael councillor Jim Long, explained that the council's policy is to buy only three to four properties in any one area and then impose a 'buying moratorium' on that area, and move on to another part of the city.

The mayor said the council are "very selective and careful" in which houses and areas they buy, and not all are for people being relocated under the Regeneration programme. Tenants being relocated to any part of the city also undergo strict vetting.



On the move: Some residents move out as first sod is turned in Moyross, but many are staying put, according to the council