

## Today's weather

BREEZY today, with a mixture of bright or sunny spells and showers. Some of the showers will be heavy and possibly thundery. Maximum temperatures of 16 to 20 degrees, in a fresh to strong south to south-

west wind. Tonight, there will be further heavy showers, but clear spells also. **Pollen Count:** Generally moderate. **Solar UV Index:** Medium to high in any sunshine.

## Dialysis boost

### From P1

"The successful company has been notified this week and the facility is expected to be operational within the next six months.

Patients treated in the satellite unit will remain under the care of the referring consultant and multidisciplinary team from the Regional hospital."

## Bus lane decision is city manager's

DEPUTY Mayor Jim Long has warned that the ultimate decision on whether a bus lane is run through Ballinacurra Road and O'Connell Avenue is out of the hands of councillors writes **Mike Dwane**.

Other councillors have stated that under Part VIII of the planning process, they could veto any plans to develop a bus lane there, plans that have unleashed a fierce local opposition despite the fact Limerick has the least-developed green routes of any city in the country.

But Cllr Long said that while he is behind Ballinacurra/ O'Connell Avenue residents in their fight against a possible green route, the reality is the Garda Commissioner and city manager are empowered under the Road Traffic Act to put a bus lane "anywhere they see fit." And he added that this is precisely what happened in Dublin, where bus and cycle lanes were passed by management in the teeth of opposition from locals and their councillors.

# Third time lucky for greyhound stadium in city?

By **JOHN HOGAN**

BORD na gCon was hoping for a case of "third time lucky" as it announced plans to build a €20m stadium on the site of the old Greenpark Racecourse on the Dock Road.

The planning application process will begin immediately for the new stadium which it is hoped will be completed by 2010.

This is the Greyhound Board's second attempt at constructing a new track in Greenpark. In 2002, plans for a £10 million stadium were scuppered because of fears that infrastructure in the area wouldn't support

such a development.

In 2006, a development was announced on the Ennis Road but once again, there were problems with the location and access to the proposed site.

Speaking at the announcement, the Chairman of the Irish Greyhound Board, Dick O'Sullivan, acknowledged the previous "false dawns": "I realise this is the third time we've had this press conference," he said, "but they say 'third time lucky' and I'm confident it will go through this time."

He added that the new track will be the "five-star facility that Limerick people deserve" and would rival Shelbourne Greyhound Stadium in Dublin as the premium national venue for greyhound racing.



**Dick O'Sullivan, chairman Bord na gCon, speaking at the Marriott Hotel, announcing the location of the new Limerick Greyhound Stadium**

The stadium will boast a two-storey high television screen, a restaurant, bars both on the ground floor and in the gallery and parking for "at least" 450 vehicles.

Mr O'Sullivan also thanked Mark McMahon, Chairman of Limerick Race Company who he admitted had been shy to commit to the project initially, following the last

failed attempt at constructing a stadium on the site of the old Greenpark Racecourse.

Mayor of Limerick Ger Fahy said that the announcement was a "great sporting occasion for Limerick." He assured the members of Bord na gCon that the new stadium would do booming business once it was opened: "We in Limerick pride ourselves on being the sporting capital of the country so you can be sure of receiving our support once you're up and running."

Minister for Defence Willie O'Dea also emphasised that a sporting county such as Limerick should have a proud stadium in which to host greyhound racing: "This is what the sporting fraternity in Limerick deserve," he said.