

Greenpark confirmed as location for new greyhound stadium

June 2010 set for grand opening

By John O'Shaughnessy

LIMERICK'S new multi-million euro greyhound stadium is to be

sited at the former Greenpark Racecourse, as was exclusively revealed by the Limerick Post three weeks ago and again in

last week's issue.

The announcement was made at a press conference hosted by Bord na gCon, at the Marriott Hotel, this Tuesday.

The total cost of the project, which encompasses a new head office facility, is expected to be nearly 20 million euro,

Two years ago, Bord na gCon announced plans for a new stadium near the Coonagh roundabout, but they encountered planning problems with Clare County Council.

They had purchased the site from a local person.

Dick O'Sullivan, chairman, Bord na gCon, revealed that planning permission will begin immediately

for the Dock Road site, and based upon the support of local stakeholders, should lead to the completed development being in place by June 2010.

Both the current facility at the Markets Field, as well as the head office location in Henry Street, will, consistent with public procurement guidelines, be offered for sale.

Last week, the Limerick Post again exclusively told readers that the Limerick Market Trustees were anxious to buy back the Markets Field, which they sold to Bord na gCon some years ago.

Commenting on this week's announcement, Mr O'Sullivan added "after many false

dawns in the past, I am delighted that this site has been purchased. Notwithstanding the historical relevance of this site, I am excited by the location which should ensure that the facility will be very accessible for everyone in the Mid-West region.

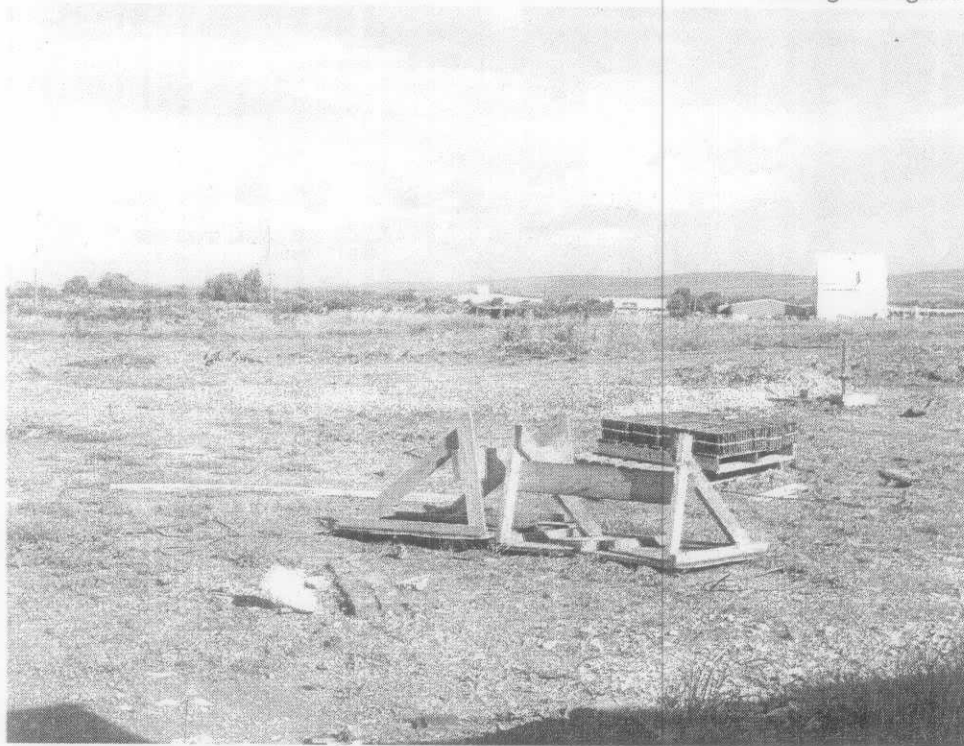
"In proximity to the new Limerick Ring Road and the Tunnel linking the Ennis Road and the motorway network this is a very significant development. I am conscious of the considerable amount of work that Bord na gCon did in the past which, for a variety of reasons, did not deliver a world-class facility to Limerick.

"This hardened my commitment to deliver

a world-class track in a fantastic location to Limerick and whilst I am aware that I am not the first Board chairman to make this announcement, I am confident that there is now both the goodwill and commitment by all concerned to get this stadium built on this occasion".

Interestingly, former Bord na gCon chairman Michael Field, had initially investigated the possibilities of locating a greyhound stadium at Greenpark Racecourse and staged a press conference to outline plans.

Mayor of Limerick Cllr Ger Fahy, spoke at Tuesday's press conference and welcomed the announcement".



How the Limerick Post were first to break the story last week

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