

# Dogs to get their day as plans for €20m stadium submitted

By ANNE SHERIDAN

PLANS for the development of a €20m greyhound racing stadium at the former Greenpark racecourse on the Dock Road were submitted to Limerick City Council this week.

Adrian Neilan, chief executive of Bord na gCon, told the Limerick Leader that they are hopeful the new "state of the art" stadium will be opened in early 2010, and said it will be something that Limerick "can be proud of".

"The building of this new stadium will provide a world class racing infra-

structure and a fine dining experience to greyhound owners and customers in the Mid-West region," said Mr Neilan.

He added that Bord na gCon are "hopeful that the planning application will be successful" this time around.

Earlier this year, plans to construct a €20 million greyhound stadium on the outskirts of Limerick city were declared invalid by Clare County Council after Bord na gCon failed to reply to a request for further information.

Now under the new plans submitted to City Hall, Bord na gCon intends to build a 500m greyhound track on the

Dock Road site, along with stadium viewing, and dining areas.

The stadium has been designed by Derry-based Hamilton Architects, who have been contracted by Bord na gCon to design all their developments.

It is understood that if this planning application is successful, the regeneration bodies set up under John Fitzgerald's report are keen to acquire the current greyhound track, the Markets Field, on Mulgrave Street with a view to developing it as an area for social amenities.

"There has been a lot of strong interest in the Market Fields, but as a

public body it will have to be put up for sale publicly. However, it would be great to have a state of the art stadium on the Dock Road and have significant regeneration at the Market Fields," said Mr Neilan.

The track on Mulgrave Street first opened to greyhound racing in 1932 and is no longer thought viable for that purpose.

Fine Gael Cllr Jim Long said he has been "inundated" with complaints from local residents regarding the track and welcomed the new plans, which he said will create a number of permanent jobs for the area.

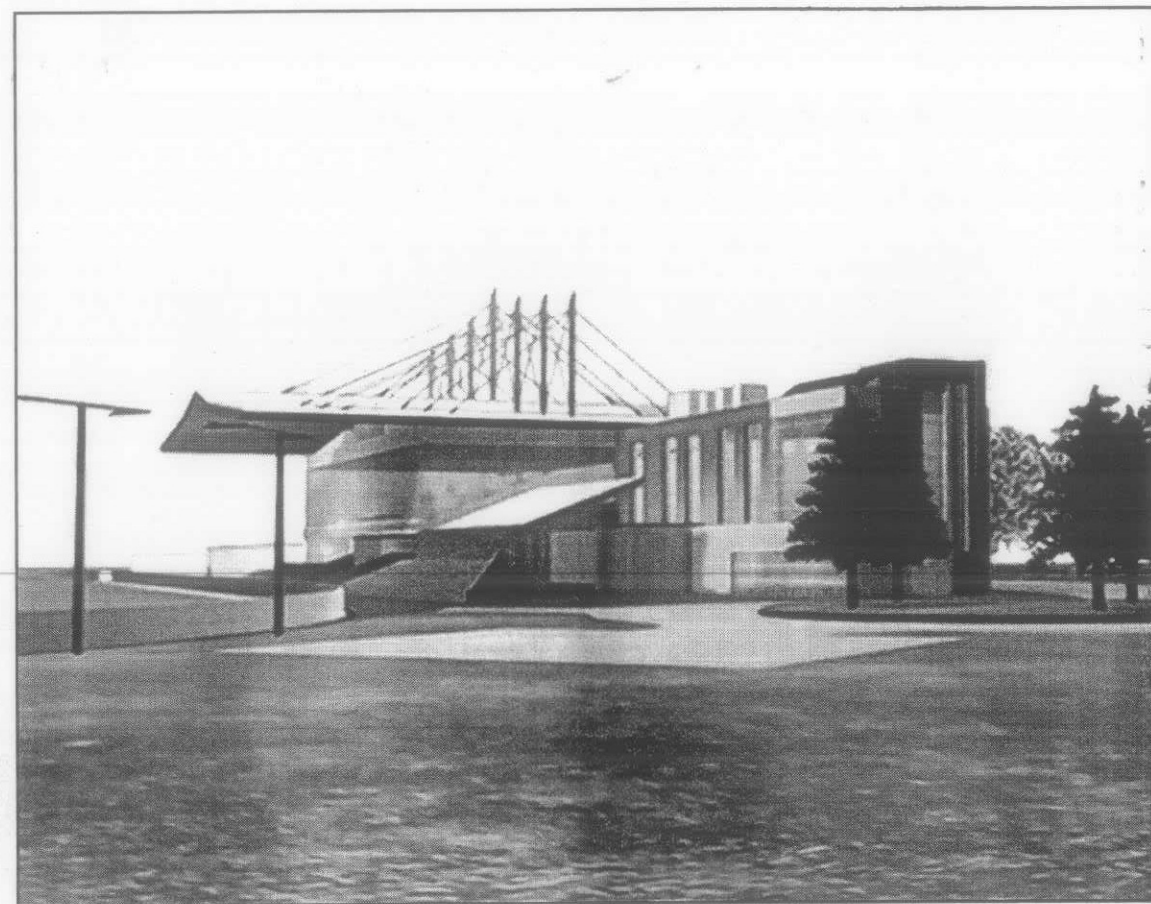
"The new track, along

with the redevelopment of the Docklands area, will sit well with the redevelopment of Limerick," said Cllr Long.

Cllr Long said the new track will cater for some 10,000 patrons and added the traffic layout for the area is also agreeable to councillors.

The facility will also provide for 510 car parking spaces. An Environmental Impact Statement accompanies the application and is available for inspection at the planning office.

The planning department is expected to make a decision on the application by February 19 of next year.



The proposed €20m greyhound racing track for the Dock Road, for which Bord na gCon submitted plans this week to Limerick City Council

## Friars look forward to first Noël in Moyross

By PETULA MARTYN

THE Franciscan Friars are looking forward to their first Christmas in Moyross following the success of their live crib last weekend.

The five wise men, who are affectionately known as the "Monkeys", have made a massive contribution to their new neighbourhood, often through unpublicised good works.

However, the spotlight was on a specially-constructed stable outside their friary at Delmege Park last Saturday, where a very special Nativity took place.

If Jesus had been born in Moyross in December 2007, it is fair to say he would have received a warm and enthusiastic welcome judging from the community spirit and goodwill that was evident at the Nativity.

The figures of Mary and Joseph were played by locals Lisa Quirke and Jason O'Neill from Limerick South. Services

into organising it is extraordinary," he said.

On Sunday morning, a local woman knocked on the door of the Delmege Park friary to tell the monks that a collection of €250 had been made to pay for their Christmas dinner. She took a list of the groceries they will need to cook a meal on Christmas Day.

"We are so touched by the generosity that continues to be shown to us," Br Martin Ervin said.

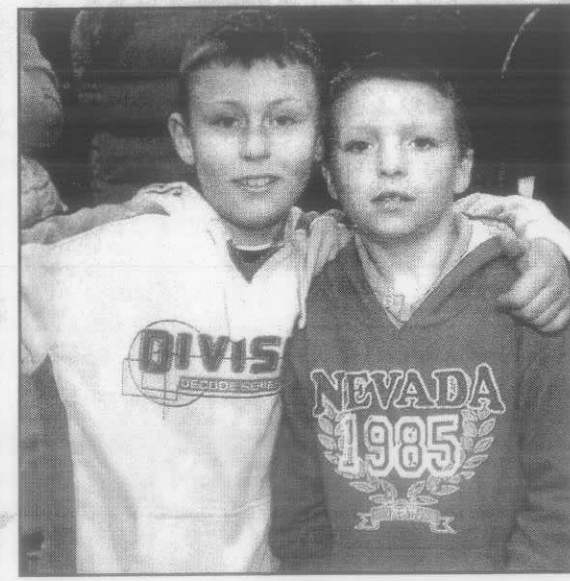
The friars, who are from the United States, Germany and France, will stay in Moyross this Christmas. They will not exchange gifts on Christmas Day as the men have taken a vow of poverty.

Br Shawn O'Connor explained, "Our parents or family might give us something, but we never exchange gifts. It's actually a rule that we are not supposed to because we have taken a vow of poverty."

"We've lived in areas that are known for poverty. We don't have a lot



Clockwise from above: Tony Crowe, Brian O'Flanagan and Pat Reynolds taking part in the Nativity Play in Delmege Park



## Heroin addict gets sentenced to four years

By KATHRYN HAYES

A CHRONIC heroin addict who began taking drugs when he was 10 years old has been jailed for four years in relation to robbery and false imprisonment charges.

Mark Foran, 20, of Wolfe Tone Terrace, Nenagh, pleaded guilty to three counts of robbery, two counts of false imprisonment and one charge of threatening to kill a woman at separate business premises in Limerick city on dates in March and April of this year.

He also pleaded guilty to robbing €200 from an off-licence in Tralee last March 11 and to stealing a car from Manor West Retail Park in Tralee on the same date.

Defence counsel Brian

associated with the case, and his client, who was homeless at one stage, was "virtually illiterate" and not a very good candidate for the workforce.

Judge Carroll Moran said the accused man's offences related to four separate incidents of robbery, in which staff were falsely imprisoned in two cases.

He said there were middle-aged women working in all three of the shops in the city that Mr Foran had targeted, and, in two of these incidents, he removed the CCTV footage.

"This experience for shop assistant must be terrifying," said Moran.

He described the defendant's "pretty appalling" attitude towards the victim.