

## News

# Property sales will fund new dog track

Anne Sheridan  
and Nick Rabbitts

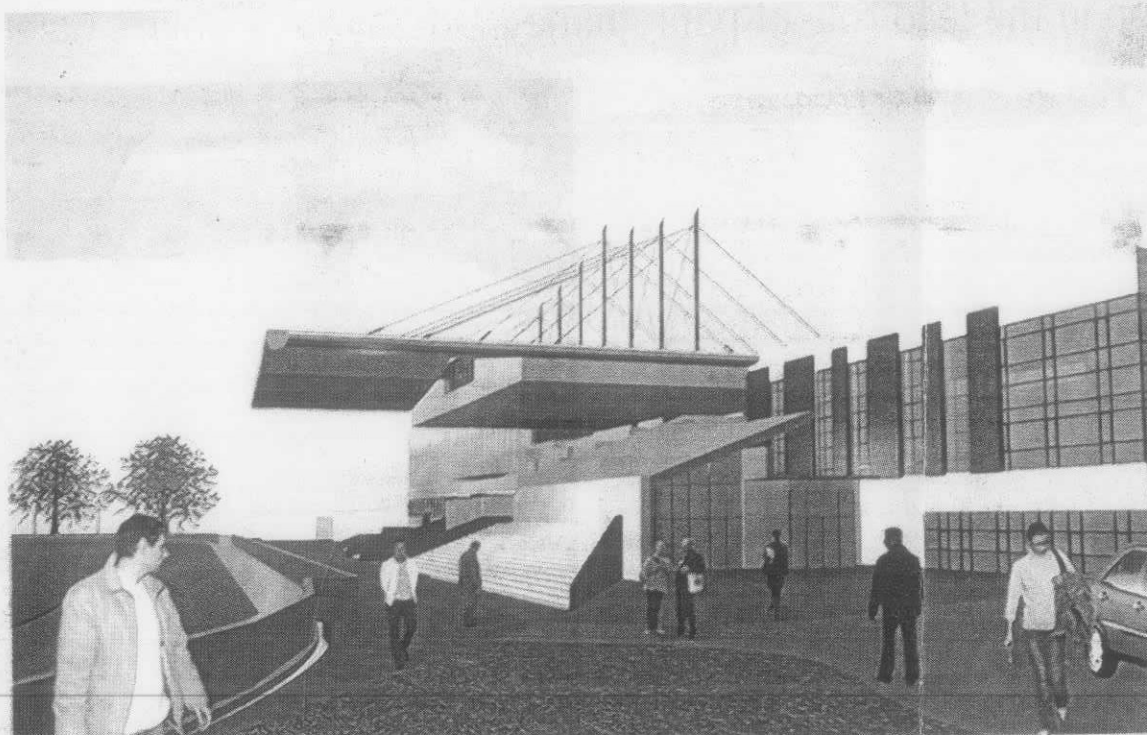
THE chief executive of the Irish Greyhound Board said he is confident that the board will be able to fund an €18m new greyhound stadium in Limerick, pending the sale of two of their properties.

Adrian Neilan, Irish Greyhound Board, said the development will be funded by the sale of the old stadium at the Market's Field, and its offices on Henry Street.

Estate agent O'Connor Murphy Gubbins has reported a high level of interest from four parties in the IGB's headquarter building on Henry Street, while the FAI is said to be interested in returning soccer to the Market's Field. Mr Neilan said the group is therefore "very confident" it will have a successful transaction in 2009.

The CEO was responding to concerns about whether the necessary capital could be raised to back the development. The chairman of Limerick & Clare Greyhound Owners and Breeders Association, (LCGOBA) Tom Ryan, had expressed doubt in this regard, and greeted news of the project as "a little scepticism".

"Our worry is that the history of this project is not very good. We're looking on it as a positive step for the greyhound industry.



An artist's impression of the proposed new greyhound track to be built in Greenpark next year

There have been announcements before this and that's what we're wary of. But we're keeping our fingers crossed and hoping it will go ahead, and won't be the victim of any cutbacks," said Mr Ryan.

Work on the 16 acre site at Greenpark is expected to begin next March, following Limerick City Council's decision to grant planning permission. More than 100 jobs will be created at the new greyhound stadium in the city when it

opens in two years, with another 200 builders employed during its construction. When built, Mr Neilan said the board is aiming for in the region of 100,000 visitors to the stadium per year.

"The complex will be right on the cutting edge of sports and leisure building and will reflect the confidence generated within our sport in recent years. It will be a long-term, top class addition to the sporting tradition of which Lim-

erick is justifiably proud," said Mr Neilan.

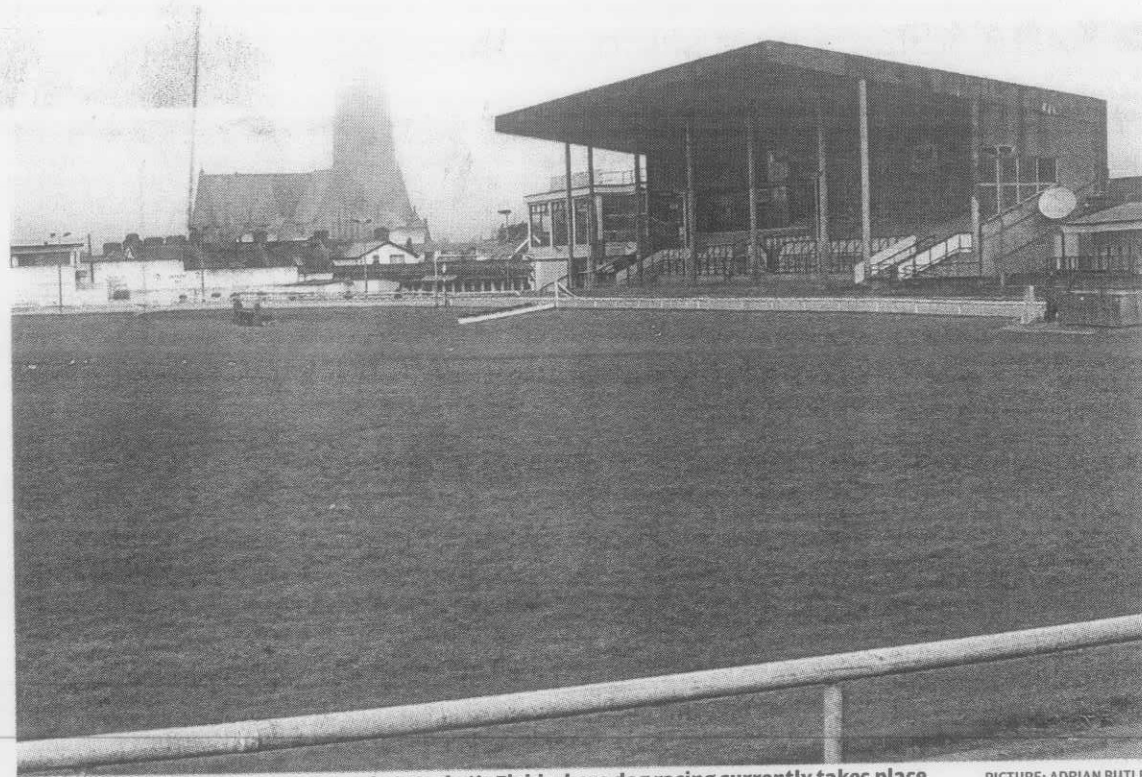
The centrepiece of the huge development - estimated to be the largest construction project in the south of Ireland next year - is a 500 metre track, while the remainder of the complex will also have provision for kennel blocks, shop storage areas, and office buildings including the board's head office.

City Cllr Maria Byrne said the new stadium will be a great asset to the peo-

ple of Limerick. "Even those who have no interest in greyhound racing, they will go along for a night's entertainment," she said.

As part of the permission, the developers must include a monument to mark the Pope's visit to the area 30 years ago.

John J Casey and Co., which renovated Shelbourne Park and Harolds Cross stadiums in Dublin, has been appointed project manager for the construction of the new stadium.

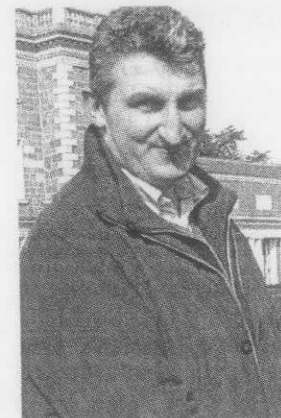


The less than salubrious grandstand at Market's Field where dog racing currently takes place

PICTURE: ADRIAN BUTLER



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**Tom Ryan, LCGOBA**



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**- Adrian Neilan, CEO, IGB**

## Local boys in blue edging closer to All-Ireland glory

Gerard Fitzgibbon

based in Mayorstone and plays his club football with Limerick Garda over-

dent it'll pay off," he said.

Limerick Garda over-

Anne Sheridan

## Loneliness the enemy of city elderly

■ Research reveals concern among northside population at increasing isolation

Anne Sheridan

areas. In the survey, people in this area, said their worst problem was their

what Moyross means to me. "The first problem we