

Exciting new look for 157-year-old Milk Market

By Marie Hobbins

Completion expected in mid-2010

THE €2 million revamp of the Milk Market is imminent, with a temporary relocation of the Saturday morning market to Ellen Street from November 7.

This local landmark has been operating on its present site since 1852.

Traditionally, a Saturday morning market that brought farmers into the city

with their home grown produce, mainly vegetables, poultry, eggs, flowers and second-hand clothes, it has greatly expanded in the past 20 years, with an increasing number of traders going into operation in the surrounding streets.

Last year, David O'Mahony, chairman of the Market Trustees, announced plans to undertake a major redevelopment that will greatly enhance the market by providing protection from the weather, a restaurant, facilities for the traders and extended opening

hours that will lead to trading in the market throughout the entire week.

"The newly upgraded facility will have the potential to increase footfall by over 50% per week when it reopens in mid-2010, and generate significant incremental revenue for the region by extended trading hours, as well as creating a "foodies' hub", with a limited number of premier producers earmarked to join the existing retailers to run year-round operations there," said Mr O'Mahony.

It is also planned to

make the historic venue available to host compatible, hand-picked events, such as Christmas markets, food fairs and classical concerts.

"We aim to have the

ground works to supply electricity and water to the traders' stalls, and foundations to support a new, umbrella-style shelter. Phase 2 will see this specially-designed shelter being erected

over the Milk Market. The final phase involves the development of a pavilion, which includes a mezzanine floor and some additional permanent retail units.



Pictured following the appointment of Clare Based L. & M Keating Ltd. as main contractors for the €2 million upgrade project at the Milk Market, Limerick, were (l to r): John Reidy, Reidy Dennany Associates, David O'Mahony, Chairman, Limerick Market Trustees, Louis Keating, MD, L. & M. Keating Ltd. Richard Rice, Director, Healy and Partners, Limerick and Ger Kiely, Chairman, Milk Market Traders' Representative Committee.

Milk Market recognised as the outstanding example of best practice in market operations in Ireland and beyond - in fact, this has already begun, with the market having just been awarded the Certificate of Good Practice Standard for Farmers' Markets by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, in conjunction with Bord Bia.

Work will entail three phases; the first involves

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