

# Markets Field sale documents issued

■ Closure date for tenders to buy Garryowen site is October 7 next

By NEIL TREACY

THE Irish Greyhound Board has issued the formal tender documents for the sale of the historic Market's Field Stadium in Limerick. Interested parties have until 4pm on Thursday October 7 to submit tenders.

The stadium, which was first used for sport in 1886, had been home to greyhound racing in Limerick since 1932, until its closure in July, as greyhound racing moves to the new stadium on the Dock Road.

It is viewed by many as the spiritual home of soccer in Limerick, and efforts have been made to bring Limerick FC back to the stadium.

However, the prospect for senior soccer returning to the historic Market's Field were dealt a blow late in August, following the Irish

Greyhound Board's announcement that it has commenced a public tender process for the sale of the Limerick city site.

A bid made by Limerick FC CEO Pat O'Sullivan in June was not accepted by the Irish Greyhound Board, despite it meeting an independent valuation of the site, which is "zoned for a mixture of open space and industrial use", according to the semi-state body.

Mr O'Sullivan told the Limerick Leader last week that he "made a bid, and the bid was equal to the valuation, and it wasn't accepted".

"I think what we had was a brilliant project for the city, I think that Limerick needs a home for soccer. It would have been a municipal stadium, and it could have been a brilliant thing for the city and it is disappointing that it didn't

happen," he added.

On September 1, Mr O'Sullivan confirmed that he had made a renewed bid for the Markets Field, entering an official bid as part of the public tender process.

However, he refused to disclose the nature of the bid, whether it was an increase on his initial bid made earlier this summer, rather stating that he wished to "see what the process brings us now" in his attempt to return Limerick soccer to what is considered its spiritual home.

"What I understand to be the position now is that there is a public tender process taking place, and we are awaiting the outcome of that," explained the Limerick soccer chairman.

Complete tender packs with full property details are available from Holmes O'Malley Sexton Solicitors.



The Markets Field, Garryowen which has been put up for sale by the Irish Greyhound Board. The tender process continues until October 7

## LEADER BRIEFS

**HSE urging parents to speak about underage drinking and drugs**

AS part of its ongoing public awareness campaign on alcohol and legal or illegal highs; the HSE is encouraging parents of students receiving their Junior Certificate results this Wednesday to discuss the dangers of underage drinking and drug use with them.

Dr Bobby Smyth, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist with the Health Service Executive called for parents to highlight the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse with their children.

"As parents, we consistently underestimate how much our children are drinking and experimenting with drugs. We also tend to underestimate the strength of our influence on our children's drinking.

"We are recommending that parents have an honest and open conversation with their children about drinking alcohol or taking legal or illegal drugs."

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