

Army" in Bangalore to witness the greatest

has been working for Donal for 15 years. It is largely through his

breaking run chase on Tuesday.

Former Ireland opening bowler John McDevitt,

achievement. "They were practically

to take up the game".

Nancy Blake's

## Jim Long hopes for support of former FG councillor Kiely

Nick Rabbitts

FINE Gael councillor Jim Long, widely tipped to be Mayor of Limerick next year, has said he cannot predict if newly-independent member Kevin Kiely will back him in his bid this summer.

Cllr Kiely was thrown out of Fine Gael after he decided to run against established party candidates Michael Noonan and Kieran O'Donnell as an Independent at the general election.

After securing just 1,129 first preference votes, Cllr Kiely remains on Limerick City Council. And as an Independent, it is he who holds the balance of power at City Hall.

He said he will not be returning to Fine Gael in the near future, because of the way he feels he was treated by the party's top brass.

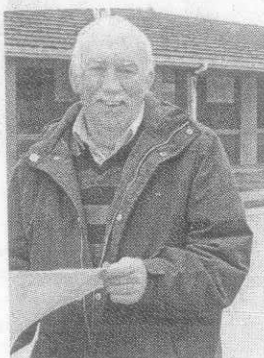
Cllr Kiely also declined to publicly support his long term friend, Cllr Long, who is Fine Gael's nomination for Mayor next year.

If Cllr Kiely did wish to return to the Fine Gael benches, he would have to apply to the party on a national basis - as Cllr Pat Kennedy did in 2009.

But it appears unlikely to happen in the near future. Asked on his future, Cllr Kiely said: "You cannot just go along and treat people like that, and then expect you to come back when they need you. As for the Mayoralty, I will be keeping my cards close to my chest until a couple of nights before the election."

However, Cllr Long said he thinks fellow members will "elect the right person on the night." He also said if the northside councillor had any intention of returning to Fine Gael, "I would be very supportive of his position."

"I would personally do everything in my power to make sure Kevin is



Cllr Jim Long hopes for Kevin Kiely's support



Cllr Kevin Kiely: has refused to commit

reinstated no matter how long it takes. He has my full support inside and outside the Fine Gael party as we speak," Cllr Long told the Limerick Leader. "But his vote is now an independent vote. I cannot call it. But I will be seeking his support, and that of others to get the Mayoralty. It's another day's work, it's something I wouldn't be addressing until June."

One councillor, who did not wish to be identified, described former Mayor Kiely as "a loose cannon."

"The reality of the situation is no-one knows what Kevin will do tomorrow. Unfortunately Kevin never thinks of the consequences of his actions. He has a past record of making decisions one week, and changing the next week. No-one knows what his future is," the member told the Limerick Leader.

The Mayoral election takes place in June.

The Markets Field: the spiritual home of Limerick soccer, bought this week by the LEDP thanks to a donation by JP McManus

## Limerick FC hail JP's 'extreme generosity' in buying stadium

Alan Owens

LIMERICK FC boss Pat O'Sullivan has hailed JP McManus's "extreme generosity" in facilitating the purchase of the Markets Field, returning Limerick soccer to its 'spiritual home'.

Mr McManus, recently voted Limerick's Person of the Year, provided a "generous donation" through his charitable trust to the Limerick Enterprise Development Partnership Limited (LEDP), who announced this week that they had reached agreement with

Bord na gCon to acquire the Markets Field for a sum "in excess of €1.5m".

Pat O'Sullivan, Limerick FC CEO and benefactor, hailed JP's intervention as a "momentous day for Limerick sport", which could not have come about without the racing tycoon's contribution.

"The generosity of the McManus family has been an inspiration and a source of wonderful support to many people and organisations throughout the region and we in Limerick FC, as a key part of the wider

sporting community, are so grateful for this marvellous gesture," said Mr O'Sullivan, who has made it a personal goal to return Limerick soccer to the former greyhound stadium since he took over the couple two years ago.

A licence to occupy the Markets Field will be granted to Limerick FC and supporters can expect to return to the former greyhound racing stadium "during 2012", LEDP director Gerry Boland said.

"The generosity of the

JP McManus Charitable Foundation made this dream come true and I am particularly pleased to see Limerick FC, now represented by Munster Football Club Limited, returning to its roots at the historic Markets Field," Mr Boland said.

This is the third time that Mr McManus has helped sport in Limerick secure a decent home, with the racing tycoon providing €5 million to the redevelopment of the Gaelic Grounds and a separate €4 million donation for

the refurbishment of Thomond Park several years ago, a fact revealed by Pat Whelan, chairman of the Thomond Park redevelopment committee in early 2009.

Mr O'Sullivan noted that the club was not for profit and said they were "delighted to be afforded the privilege to operate the Market's Field. This is a huge responsibility and one that the club will not take lightly".

Plans for the redevelopment of the stadium will follow in due course, the club said.

from it except to say that we suggest that it is higher than expected per capita."

Limerick claims the unsavoury title of compensation capital on an almost yearly basis, and the spokesperson for the Injuries Board agreed that the annual

awarded in 2010 in respect of 8,381 personal injury claimants.

The numbers show a €30m reduction in the value of awards since 2008 despite claims volumes increasing to 26,964 over the same period.

## Leddin and Kennedy hopefuls for Seanad

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

successful, Cllr Leddin's Council seat would become vacant and the co-option from members of his Labour branch would follow.

Cllr Kennedy previously served in the Seanad for 11 years, having been nominated by the Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland. That body will meet in the Green Isle Hotel outside Dublin this Saturday to select its candidates. There are 171 delegates from City and Town Councils around the country, 63 of whom are Fine Gael members, 35 Labour, 31 Fianna Fail and 42 Independent.

"I have submitted my name to the AMAI but with a certain amount of reluctance. At this stage of my life I enjoy staying and home in Limerick and working as a councillor," Cllr Kennedy said this Thursday.

Sources said this week that Limerick County Council chairman Richard Butler might also be interested but he said

"nobody has approached me about a nomination and I have approached nobody for a nomination."

It was also suggested Mayor Byrne might not be in the running because she was in line to replace Sean Kelly MEP in Europe if the former GAA president succeeds Mary McAleese in Aras an Uachtairin later this year.

Such speculation was well wide of the mark, Mayor Byrne said.

"Not at all. I never went forward for it and my name isn't on any list," she said, accusing Council colleagues of spin.

Meanwhile, Daniel Sullivan is seeking the backing of NUI and Trinity graduates, in his bid for the Seanad. He contested the 2007 Seanad campaign on a platform of electoral reform and believes abolishing the Seanad in isolation won't mean much without more widespread political reform.

Mr Sullivan has criticised the "elitism" that allows NUI and Trinity graduates vote in the elections while UL graduates are excluded.

## More Garda patrols during Charity Week

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We are very concerned at the level of drunkenness, littering, urination in public places, and general rowdiness that has always been associated with the annual RAG Week. RAG Week has been rebranded as Charity Week, but these problems still remain."

The residents group also criticised the university, stating: "The University insists that it has no legal responsibility in this matter and does not seem

has initiated a number of procedures to try and benefit the residents of the estates. This year, we have one of the most co-ordinated and resident friendly charity weeks in years," he told the Limerick Leader.

One of the new initiatives, Mr McDuffie said, was the introduction of Meipheal na Mac Leinn (or Student Leaders).

Funded by the university, they are tasked with going around city estates and breaking up student parties.

EX LIMERICK LEADER  
5TH MARCH 2011  
PAGE 2