

first citizen," he emphasised.

"You showed great presence of mind on both occasions," he claimed.

"This is not something which I wish to dwell on but it is something which should never be allowed to happen again," he added.

The former mayor, he said, had worked very hard for the benefit of the city during her year.

He mentioned in particular her role in the introduction of the wheeled bin system, her presence at the opening of the concert hall which will assist the cultural life of the city, and also the Paddy Music Expo which he said had been an outstanding success.

"You carried out your duties in a dignified manner and showed intelligence and leadership at all times," declared Alderman Kemmy.

Cllr Dick Sadlier said the outgoing mayor did the city proud and in the face of some difficult controversies "came out with flying



Outgoing mayor: Jan O'Sullivan.

(LL)

colours".

And in a reference to gender balance, he said, her mayoralty done more for the cause of women than any impositions could ever achieve.

Cllr Gus O'Driscoll thanked the former mayor for the dignified way in which she carried out the duties of the office.

It is not easy for a woman with a family and for that we say Thank You"

However Cllr O'Driscoll said he was disappointed with outgoing mayor O'Sullivan's stance on Shannon airport in the Senate.

She was also compli-

mented by Cllr Jack Bourke who added that he had no qualms about her ability.

Cllr Joe Harrington congratulated the outgoing mayor personally on her decision to host a civic reception for the ICTU and for the winning crew of St Michael's boat club of which his son is a member.

Cllr John Ryan also paid tribute to the outgoing mayor and claimed that few people realised the demands of the office.

City manager, Jack Higgins congratulated her on the outstanding manner in which she conducted the office.

aries," he claimed.

"It is entirely illogical," he said "that a city, denied the opportunity to expand its boundary for some 43 years, is yet expected to fund the necessary infrastructure of the expanded areas."

The office of Mayor, fortunately he said in his opinion, does not carry with it executive powers.

It does, however, he said, enable significant influence to be exercised and, if harnessed and channelled positively, can project the city in a manner that reflects well, not just nationally, but also internationally.

"I will endeavour to ensure that Limerick is, at all times, shown in the best possible light and that the natural advantages and many modern facilities of the city are promoted on as wide a platform as possible," he promised.

Over the last decade, he said, significant progress has been made in improving the physical environment of

"An economy that does not serve the people has

"I am strongly of the view that the board and

and his mother Aggie for their help and support.



Limerick's new Mayor, Councillor Dick Sadlier.

(LL)

## Kemmy

ALDERMAN Kemmy, congratulating Cllr Sadlier on his election described him as "hardworking and most importantly, honest" "Even though 277 philosophies are polls part we have shown that we can work together for the benefit of the city," stated the Alderman.

Cllr John Quinn who seconded Cllr Sadlier's nomination thanked the members of the Labour party who had ensured his election.

Cllr Jack Bourke said he had no doubt as to the abilities of Cllr Sadlier to perform the duties of mayor.

He explained that he voted for Cllr Harrington because of his record on the Council. "And I do think that as this is the 25 anniversary of Southill that it would be good to have a mayor from that area".

Cllr Bourke said it would have given him equally given him no trouble to vote for Cllr Sadlier who he claimed came from a Fianna Fail background.

for three years which has now been extended and I have no problem with that," he added.

Alderman Kemmy said his party could not support Cllr Harrington because of his views on Northern Ireland.

Cllr Harrington dismissed that claim as "utter rubbish" and pointed out that he had supported people without asking them to change their politics.

He added that he would prefer to see 'unity of the left' on the Council.

Cllr Ryan wished the new Mayor well.

Calling for a more unified effort, Cllr Ryan said the behaviour at some meetings could put people off.

Alderman John Gilligan also wished the Mayor well.

Jack Higgins, city manager, congratulated Mayor Sadlier on attaining the highest elected office in the city.

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# Mayor Jan: a year of rapid progress

SIGNIFICANT progress in projecting the real face of Limerick by superimposing a positive picture rather than trying to wipe out a negative one has been made, claimed outgoing Mayor Jan O'Sullivan.

The urban renewal programme, she said, was continuing with progress in the Docklands area.

And the quality of restoration projects by the Civic Trust in the Crescent and by the Market Trustees in the Milk Market was so high that these two projects, won for the city, two out of the three European architectural heritage awards, which came to Ireland in the past year.

Progress was also well under way in the preparation of the Customs House to receive the Hunt collection, next year.

Outgoing Mayor O'Sullivan again paid a special tribute to the Hunt family for their extraordinarily generous gift to the Irish people and to the people of Limerick in particular.

She referred to the publication of the King's Island plan and said it offers the potential for sensitive but innovative development in this historic part of the city,

lovingly referred to as the "Island".

"Co-operation with residents is crucial to its success as is securing funding for the Northern Relief Road," she emphasised.

"We are very confident of attracting substantial EC support for parts of the plan," she added.

The plan contained a proposal to dredge part of the bed of the Abbey river which could result in a navigable waterway all the way from the Erne down to the estuary of the Shannon.

"The sight of large numbers of boats plying their way along the Abbey and Shannon rivers would be very welcome," she declared.

She referred to the opening of the concert hall and said it had enabled Limerick to attract a number of prestigious performances and televised programmes which have very much enhanced the image of the city.

"I believe that it has brought a closer relationship between the university and the city which can be developed in the future," she claimed.

Co-operation between the city and county according to outgoing mayor O'Sullivan has been positive in the past year.

"We fervently hope that that co-operation will extend to waste disposal in the near future and that it will enable us to close down the Longpavement which has well outgrown its lifespan," she stated.

The long awaited new city reservoir was under construction and the planning process of the main drainage scheme is on schedule.

"And the Council has continued to meet regularly with the Garda authorities," she added.

During the year, she claimed, very good progress had been made in house building and refurbishment in accordance with the government's commitment to putting substantial funding into providing homes for the many families and individuals on waiting lists around the country.

In particular, she referred to the opening of three small developments of a very high standard.

She revealed that go-ahead has been received to refurbish the Watergate flats, to replace windows in the flat complexes.

Restoration is also under

way in Ballynanty and the Corporation will soon begin the systematic refurbishment of houses in Castlepark.

It is essential, emphasised the outgoing mayor that that co-operation between local communities and the co-operation is fostered and grows.

She welcomed the renewal of vitality in the life of the city and remarked that it centred not just around sport but also around music and the arts generally.

In a reference to Civic Week, the former Mayor, who had been prevented by Bishop Jeremiah Newman from reading a lesson at the Civic Mass, said she hoped that the controversy which arose would result "in an inclusive approach to Civic events in the future".

During her year in office, outgoing Mayor O'Sullivan welcomed many visitors to the City including sports personalities Michael Garruth, Dawson Stelfox and Pakie Bonner.

She was particularly pleased to welcome Bill Whelan, Mick Hanley and the Cranberries back to their native city.

## By DEIRDRE RYAN

THE launch of Enterprise Action Plan 1994-97 was Mayor Dick Sadlier's first official function.

The plan is the work of the Limerick City Enterprise Board. The board's objective is to develop an enterprise culture at local level. It also intends to generate as many viable businesses and sustainable jobs as possible.

Mayor Sadlier welcomed the plan as a major step in bringing and enterprise culture to bear. He said the report mentions two relevant areas: unemployment and boundary extension.

The mayor stated that success is measured in jobs for people and this is the yardstick for gauging economic progress. He said that it was illogical to expect a city denied an extension to fund the infrastructure required by an expanding area.

The mayor welcomed the plan's concepts including enterprise development, particularly in relation of King's Island.

There is also the concept

of linking into the Limerick School of Art and Design through Limerick Regional Technical College. This would develop the art and crafts area and an academic and practical mix could lead to developments, according to Mayor Sadlier.

The plan was presented to Mary O'Rourke, Minister for Labour Affairs, by Jack Higgins, City Manager and Town Clerk and a member of the Limerick City Enterprise Board.

He said that he had been pushing for some time for special measures to deal with endemic unemployment and that areas of concentrated unemployment need special measures. Mr Higgins stated that there was a need to convince Europe that special measures are required in cities. He paid tribute to the zeal of the members of the board and the support of the Department of Labour.

Minister O'Rourke said that she had read the plan and its background and found it to be well thought-out. The Minister stated that the job of the Enterprise Board was the creation of jobs.

She said that day to day

passion, commitment and involvement are needed for jobs to occur.

The minister said that we were entering another era of employment and must face up to it and the opportunities and different avenues it presented.

She stated that we had to support, encourage and change ourselves to meet the new era.

Minister O'Rourke welcomed the fact that the board has interacted with existing agencies but she encouraged it to set its own stamp on activities.

Various organisations were invited to make submissions to the board including community groups, public authorities and business interests.

She believes that the challenge faced by the board is to identify ways for it to make a significant impact without duplicating the activities of other development agencies. She wished the board every success with its execution of the plan.

The Limerick City Enterprise Board and others like it nationwide were set up in late 1993 by Ruairi Quinn, Minister for Employment and

# The Mayor's first mission: enterprise and action

Enterprise. The board has enterprise and job creation objectives and responsibility for business areas not covered by State development agencies.

Enterprise Boards have approved over 1,000 projects and feasibility studies for grant assistance to businesses with the capacity to achieve viability worth over £10 million. It is expected that over 2,000 full-time and 691 part-time jobs will be created.

The Limerick City Enterprise Board is part of the network of city and county Enterprise Boards. It has received 50 applications for grant aid and approved 30 of them. These projects have had £100,000 approved for them.

The report states that Limerick city was well placed to play a major role in the development of the region.

The city was the largest shopping centre in the area and is a focal point for national and regional passengers and freight network services.

It had the largest port on the west Atlantic coast and is only 15 miles from an airport. Limerick was also

the major educational centre in the region.

Nominations to the board take into account the desire to achieve balanced representation.

Leading state development agencies, politicians, employers and social partners are represented on the board.

As well as the Enterprise Board, an Evaluation Committee will evaluate projects.

This follows on from Minister Quinn's statement that financial evaluation of projects is not enough to determine whether a project qualifies for assistance.

The purpose of the committee is to provide technical assistance to the board on the evaluation of projects.

The board will assess its own performance. It will do this in the form of agreed performance targets, reports by proposed sub-committees, an annual review of the action plan and an annual report.

The board will report regularly to the Minister for Enterprise and Employment on its progress. The reports will review the overall relevance of board strategies.