

Bridge closure to hit traffic

By COLM WARD

TRAFFIC congestion is expected around O'Briens Bridge this weekend and next week when the bridge in Killaloe is closed for repair work.

North Tipperary County Council intends closing the bridge from this Friday to Wednesday, August 27, to allow bridge strengthening work to take place.

Residents in the area are angry about the increased level of traffic that they say will come through O'Briens Bridge as a result of the closure.

However, Marcus O'Connor, the senior engineer responsible for the work, said that it was necessary and that he did not foresee any major difficulties.

Meanwhile, the Mayor of Clare, Cllr Pat O'Gorman, has called for a new bridge to be built over the Shannon in the O'Briens Bridge / Killaloe area.

He said that there was an urgent need to for another bridge as the two existing bridges were unable to cope with the volume of traffic using them.

"They were never meant to carry as much weight as they are carrying at the moment between lorries, buses, cars and all sorts of vehicles."

"It is very important that pressure would be put on the Minister to set funding aside to put a new bridge in place somewhere in the region between Killaloe and O'Briens Bridge to alleviate the congestion of traffic in that area," he said.

Clare County Council is recommending that people travelling between Killaloe and Ballina take the R463 to O'Briens Bridge or the R466 to Birdhill and the N7 or the R494 to Ballina.

The bridge will be closed between 7pm this Friday and 7pm next Wednesday.

Canon's legacy lives on in native village

By DEIRDRE McGRATH

THE legacy of Canon John Hayes, who set up Muintir na Tire in 1937, lives on in his native Murroe where large numbers attended the reopening of the new hall.

The building, which was completed in 1941 and has the distinction of being the first Muintir na Tire hall in the country, was blessed by the Archbishop of Cashel and Emly, Dr Dermot Clifford.

He said the extension and refurbishment of the hall, carried out by the community council, was a lovely tribute to Canon Hayes.

He praised the community spirit that was evident in Murroe through all the local organisations.

"All these make for a good community which is caring of its environment and its citizens. May it continue to be a meeting place and a place of peace and good neighbourliness. May it continue to grow and flourish in the years ahead," said Archbishop Clifford.

Cllr Paddy Hourigan, a member of the community council, acted as master of ceremonies for the evening and outlined the developments and groups that had developed in Murroe.

These include Abington Enterprise which employs 40 people, the community council, social housing and community alert among others.

"Murroe parish is noted for vocations. It has given a lot of priests and nuns to the religious orders over the years," said Cllr Hourigan.

He pointed out that the parish could boast of



The large crowd that attended the reopening of Murroe Muintir na Tire Hall by the Archbishop of Cashel and Emly, Dr Dermot Clifford (HI)

listed as a protected structure.

"We were very tied because it is a listed building. We had to stick to certain guidelines," Mr Humphries.

A huge amount of effort went into the restoration of a semi-circular window, 90 per cent of which had been replaced.

Two semi-circular windows which were in the original building were also preserved and grace the front porch which was built in the 1960s.

The cross and plough which is of particular interest because it was a symbol of the unification of the Church

Also among the attendance to congratulate the community were Cllr Mary Harty and Cllr Mary Jackman.

Also present was Mr Fitzgerald's sister Maureen who said her brother would have been very proud of the newly renovated hall.

The re-opening was also

a proud night for 97-year-old Bridie Taafe, whose grandson Shane built the hall.

"I was the last to be christened in the old church and the hall is built on the grounds of that building," said Mrs Taafe, who most of her life in Murroe except for 10 years which she spent in

Castlehyde Estate, Fermoy, now owned by Michael Flatley, when it was

run as a guesthouse. Muintir na Tire president Sean Hegarty and Tom Fitzgerald from head office in Tipperary were unable to attend, but sent their congratulations to the community council.



At the opening of the Muintir na Tire Hall in Murroe, May Newman and her sister Nonnie Ryan, Murroe (HI)

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