

CARI says thanks for support

LIMERICK charity CARI have paid tribute to city businessman Raphael Mullally and his wife Patricia for their support.

The CARI Foundation thanked the Mullallys of Russell's bar in Dooradoyle for organising a race night and a fashion show, which raised a total of €18,000.

CARI is a voluntary organisation, founded in 1989 to provide therapy and counselling to children and teens that have been affected by child sexual abuse and support for the non-abusing members of their families.

CARI get some funding from the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs but 70 to 80 per cent of their cash must come from local fundraising activities.



The new face of Limerick: an artist's sketch of the proposed Opera Centre in Limerick

Changing face of Limerick shopping

PROPERTY developers are planning to demolish thousands of square feet of buildings and shops in Limerick city centre to make way for one of the biggest shopping centres the city centre has ever seen.

The Belfast-based developers have lodged plans with Limerick City Council for permission to knock a number of premises on Rutland Street and Ellen Street in addition to the Cahill May Roberts building at Bank Place, Workspace on Michael Street, the AIB bank on Patrick Street and Eurosurf Internet café.

Belfast Regeneration Developments are applying for planning permission to build a shopping centre covering over 42,000 square metres on four floors and fronting five streets on a 3.8 acre site.

The developers are to name the new shopping complex The Opera Centre, in honour of Limerick's famous "rags to riches" story.



LARGE scale demolition of buildings and shops will happen in Limerick if plans for the city's newest shopping centre, which will be dedicated to the memory of a famous Limerick opera singer, are approved, writes **MAIRÉAD NÍ CHAOIMH**. We reveal the full extent of the development, and publish for the first time images of what The Opera Centre will look like

on to become an internationally renowned singer, and made an important contribution to Irish music history.

The most striking aspect to the designs of the Opera Centre are the two modern glass fronted entrances, set to become the flagship features.

One of the entrances will face the river at Bank Place, looking across to Georges Quay and the Locke Bar. The other entrance will be on the junction of Patrick Street and Ellen Street.

The other stand-out feature to the multi-million development is the "Sky Bridge", a glass and steel pedestrian bridge, which will link a new multi-storey car park on Denmark Street with the centre at Ellen Street.

Other plans include the

December 15, and planning sources say it could be up to a year before any decision is made.

Planning bosses in City Hall in the coming weeks are to begin scrutinising the extensive plans.

Kieran Reeves, senior planner at City Hall, will be one of the officials inspecting the plans.

He said it was a "huge application".

"More shopping areas are needed in the city centre so we welcome the plans from that point of view, but we need to decide on whether this is the right kind of development," he said.

He said he would be especially looking at aspects of the plans which involved demolition of existing buildings.

"There's also the issue of preservation of build-

ends up going to An Bord Pleanála or archaeological digs are required.

Pat Kearney of Rooney Auctioneers, the firm handling the planning application, said the project could generate up to 1,000 jobs.

He said that the plan had taken three years to create, and that he had dealt with 36 property owners and leaseholders during the negotiations. It is expected that there are to be two anchor tenants; Debenhams were mentioned as a possible tenant.

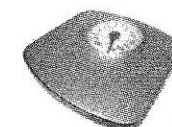
The Munster Rugby Store on Rutland Street is one of the shops earmarked for demolition in the plans.

Store manager Denis Hurley said he was "actively pursuing other properties" in the city to relocate.



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site.

The developers are to name the new shopping complex The Opera Centre, in honour of Limerick's famous "rags to riches" 18th century soprano Catherine Hayes.

Her birthplace, a premises on Patrick Street, will be restored, and turned into a museum.

Catherine Hayes, who was born into severe poverty in Limerick, went

bridge, a glass and steel pedestrian bridge, which will link a new multi-storey car park on Denmark Street with the centre at Ellen Street.

Other plans include the building of a stand alone three-storey café / bar and restaurant with landscaped plaza and decking at Bank Place.

Quinn's pub on Ellen Street will be re-roofed and refurbished.

The planning application was lodged on

He said he would be especially looking at aspects of the plans which involved demolition of existing buildings.

"There also is the issue of preservation of buildings, and their character, and the fact that there is a potential for archaeology in the area," he said.

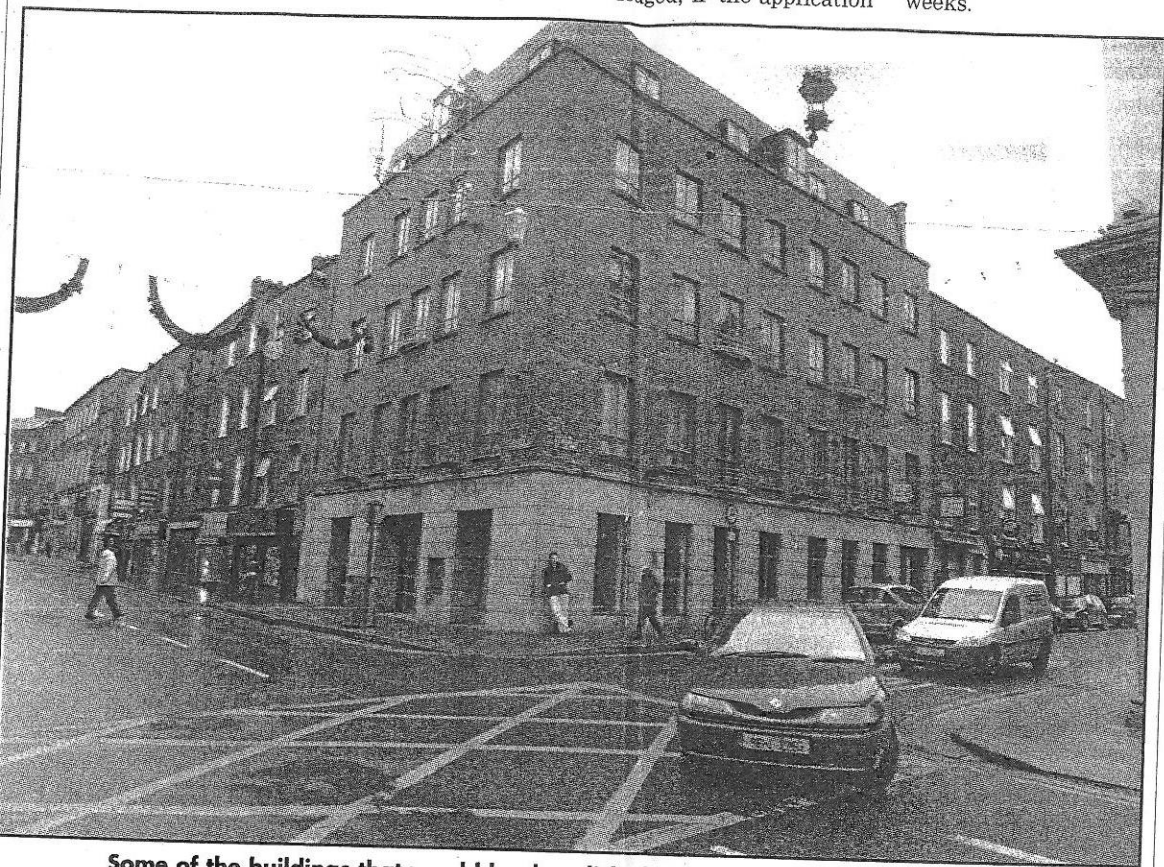
Delays in the planning process are likely, especially if the Council requests further information, if objections are lodged, if the application

marked for demolition in the plans.

Store manager Denis Hurley said he was "actively pursuing other properties" in the city to relocate.

"We know what's happening, and we welcome any development that helps in the betterment of Limerick city," said Mr Hurley.

A full official launch of the Opera Centre is to take place in the coming weeks.



Some of the buildings that would be demolished to make way for the new centre