

# Objectors 'no' to €250,000

By ANNE SHERIDAN

A LIMERICK architect has refused €250,000 from the developers of the Opera Centre to withdraw her objection to the €250m development.

Two of the three other objectors have also withdrawn but are also believed not to have accepted the pay-off from Belfast businessman Suneil Sharma's company Regeneration Developments Ltd.

Mr Sharma told the Limerick Leader that they are not denying the offer to

objectors but adds that the timing of the leak was quite cynical. "Everything was above board. We are perfectly content with what we did. It certainly wasn't a case of brown envelopes being passed around. We have conducted our business properly and with the highest degree of integrity and honesty. We don't have any qualms about how we conducted this," said Mr Sharma.

Architect Cáit Ni Cheallacháin is believed to be pursuing her case with An Bord Pleanála on the grounds that architectural heritage will be lost if the development is approved by the planning body this

Thursday.

However, a number of local heritage bodies and Limerick City Council have backed the project.

"Every major heritage body in Limerick supports us, from Taisce to Limerick Civic Trust. We have talked to everyone over the past four years," said Mr Sharma.

He added the project is the biggest development in the country at present and is set to bring 1,200 new jobs to the

region.

Denis Leonard of Limerick Civic Trust and the Irish Georgian Society told the Limerick Leader earlier this month: "if we lose out on this development we're looking at very serious problems for the development of the area."

Mr Leonard said that if the development goes ahead, the best of the old architecture on this part of the city will be saved.

## Man stabbed

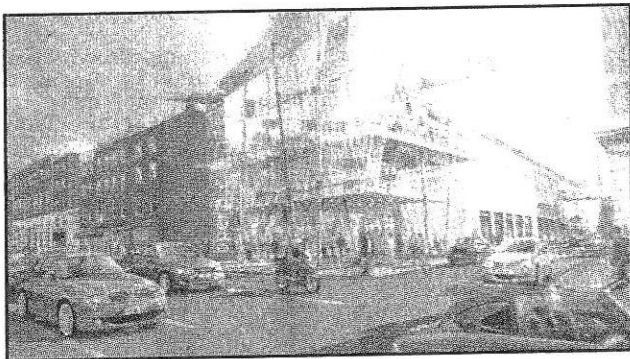
A man in his 20s was stabbed in Singland Road last night. Gardai at Henry Street are appealing for anyone with information to call them on 061-212400. The man's injuries were not life-threatening.

## Today's weather

TODAY will be dry, with hazy sunshine spells. It will become cloudier during the day, with a chance of rain. Temperatures will range from 13 to 15 degrees. Tonight will be much colder, with temperatures reaching as low as four degrees. Tomorrow will be sunny, with the odd shower, temperatures 13 to 15 degrees.

## No Q&A

QUESTIONS and Answers will not be broadcast from Limerick tonight as RTE had originally planned, due to technical problems. An RTE spokeswoman confirmed that the show would come to the city in the coming weeks, but a date has not yet been confirmed.



The proposed Opera Centre