

# Multi-million euro mall planned for Patrick Street

by Rose Rushe

PLANNING permission has been lodged for a massive shopping mall in the heart of old Limerick that will take up to three years to complete, if successful. Backed by a Belfast based property developer, the unit will run from Cahill May Roberts in Bank Place, will extend up town past Rutland Street into Patrick Street, and run deep into Denmark Street.

Amounting to four levels high, a glass pedestrian bridge will bring shoppers from the mall to Denmark Street and its existing carpark, which will increase in levels to facilitate the retail centre.

Fashion and accessory shops will be the principal theme to individual units within the mall which is a multi-million euro investment by the Northern magnate, Suneil Sharma.

"It was I who started the story about three years ago and initiated the developer's interest in Limerick," says Pat Kearney of Rooney Auctioneers. "I was listening to retailers in Limerick talk to me about the derelict buildings that were crying out for something to be done. I made contact with Suneil Sharma in Belfast who visited the city with surveyor Gary McDowell and over the past three



years, they have come regularly to Limerick to develop work on this site. There are almost 40 retailers and property holders involved in negotiations and we lodged planning permission in December at City Hall".

The future mall, should it clear planning regulations, will revitalise a dull strip of the city centre and magnetise shoppers back from the suburbs.

There is another consideration to factor in as this row will be felled and rebuilt. The late soprano

Catherine Hayes lived at No 5 Patrick Street and Limerick Civic Trust was concerned with preserving her

four storey town house. This will now be renovated by Mr Sharma's company and preserved as a

living museum, run by the trust.

Right in the middle of the 21st century mall, it will echo the

superlative work done by Limerick Civic Trust at No 2 Georgian House & Gardens.

## Capital funding increases for 2006

A RECAP on capital funding through Budget 2006 shows how allocations will affect the spend of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in the unfolding year.

### \* HOUSING

A further increase of 54mn euro capital for Social Housing brings the total exchequer provision for housing to 1.37bn euro.

### \* SOCIAL CAPITAL

6mn euro for social capital which combined with other relevant provisions for the Department's Vote, means that 20mn euro will be available for this purpose in 2006.

### \* IRISH HERITAGE TRUST

An additional 5mn euro to enable the endow-

ment fund to be established by the Trust. This is on top of the 0.5mn provided in the Estimates for administration expenses and the 6mn in tax reliefs announced in the Budget.

### \* WASTE

An additional 20mn euro capital for recycling infrastructure and remediation of landfill sites.

### \* NATIONAL CARBON FUND

20mn euro for an initial allocation for this fund.

### \* NON-NATIONAL ROADS

An additional 15mn euro for strategic non-national roads bringing the total capital provision to 66mn euro, or an increase of 29 per cent on provision for 2005.