



Non "birdman" Phil Brennan and a bird's eye view of the Estuary's northern bank.

BIRDS WOOP THE ESTUARY

By TOM BROWNE

3 of migratory birds — some all the way from the town on the Shannon Estuary this week, the council has decided to make an urgent warning to the public: Do

early duck, woodcock and snipe, are considered choice table fowl but high levels of radiation following the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in the

ing the cost air repairs



Chairman Wade.

n the Mulcair system. men were engaged and, he said. ices will be undertaken uments at Ballymack- and Clonsingle in Tip- and at Cunnagavale, e, Gortavalla, Castle- Linfield, Brittas and in Limerick. The ill continue until the £130,000 is spent. urther allocation of 0 has been requested

from the Department of the Environment.

The county chairman, Cllr. Eddie Wade, expressed his thanks to the Minister for Industry and Commerce, Mr. Noonan, who, he said, arranged the £100,000 special grant.

Cllr. Paddy Hourigan, concurring, stated that the work being done by Mr. Tom Curran and his staff was praiseworthy.

Public money

Cllr. John Griffin complained that public money had been spent on the Mulcair drainage scheme, even though nothing had been achieved. He said that a design team had been paid, as had the price of a costing analysis and a survey.

"It is a total political decision to move the Mulcair scheme from 15 to 17 on the list of Board of Works priorities", he said.

In fact Ireland-bound woodcock from Scandinavia captured and tested in Sweden has been found to have 12,000 becquerels of contamination, while the acceptable level in this country is only 300.

Mr. Phil Brennan, a Shannon school teacher and spokesman for the Irish Wild-bird Conservancy in the region, estimates that over a million birds from the contaminated areas will be wintering here.

Wintering

A recent count showed that 9,900 widgeon and 2,000 teal wintered in the Shannon region most of which were from the Northern Europe area which was severely affected by the Chernobyl disaster.

Apart from the complete disruption of the shooting season, the region stands to lose £5 million in annual revenue from foreign sources.

The Swedish experts who have been monitoring the situation since the Chernobyl disaster warned that if the birds were eaten they could cause cancer and this would be the case for years to come.

A ban on eating duck and woodcock was enforced in Sweden following the disaster.

Mr. Brennan, who with his Shannon Wader Ring Group has offered to help out the Department of Forestry and

Council compromise saves local railway

By MARTIN BYRNES

A COMPROMISE has been reached which will give Rathkeale its bypass road, but without ripping up the disused Limerick to Tralee rail line.

The new plan, which will cost an estimated £120,000 extra, envisages the road crossing the line on the Askeaton side of the town's railway station, and coming south again further on.

Provision is made for two level crossings. Work will commence shortly after Christmas.

Unanimous

The plan was unanimously approved by the County Council at its Friday meeting, when members were told that the members for the Rathkeale area were in favour.

The compromise was recommended to the council by the county manager, Mr. R. B. Haslam, following the receipt of what he termed "a Pontius Pilate letter" from CIE.

The letter made it clear that CIE were not willing to abandon the railway line immediately. Rail preservationists want the line revived



Linking Limerick with the Kingdom.

as a steam railway.

Mr. Brendan Dowling, the secretary of CIE, in his letter said that "before doing so" (abandoning) "we have decided to canvass the views of various interested bodies to see if any diverging views exist as to the future commercial viability of the railway in this area".

In his report to the council, Mr. Haslam made it clear that C.I.E. were aware of the council's interest in acquiring portion of the line, and said that there was

every indication that the required section would be available to the council. The plan, as decided, would have involved running the road along the bed of the track for a mile.

Approved

The Department of the Environment approved that plan in July.

CIE's deferring of a decision to abandon set matters back, said the manager, and "there is a serious

risk of delay of some years if the council were to press with (the original scheme) at this stage".

Mr. Haslam described the additional cost of £120,000 as "not excessive".

On the proposal of Cllr. John Griffin, supported by Cllrs. Kevin Sheehan, Dan Neville and Paddy Sheehy, the new proposal was adopted, with the provision that the detailed plan be made available to councillors before work commences.

Cllr. Michael Healy, Newcastle West, said that the compromise provided a good road while preserving an asset. He paid tribute to the engineering staff of the council for their imaginative work.

In a statement issued at the weekend, the Limerick and Kerry Railway Society, which had lobbied M.E.P.s for a Brussels-sponsored feasibility study of the line, complimented the council and C.I.E.

Tourism

"As a group of business and development interests, dedicated to the utilisation of the full potential, industrial, commercial and tourist, of the North Kerry Line, we compliment Limerick County Council and its elected members, in particular those from the Rathkeale area, for their foresight in agreeing to the retention of the integrity of the line", the statement said.

"It had at all times been the fervent view of the society that the traders and residents of Rathkeale should have without delay a suitable relief road".

The society is currently formulating, and will shortly present at local, national and European level, proposals for the future development of the line.



Outside the handball court in Abbeyfeale this week (from left): Tomas McMahon, Paddy Reidy, secretary, Michael Lynch, committee, Noel Hanlon, Richard O'Mahoney and Cllr. Michael O'Kelly.

£201 rates bill for 6 members

By LEADER REPORTER

A HANDBALL club which has only six paid-up members has received a rates demand from Limerick County Council for £201.50p. The club, at Abbeyfeale, is already in debt to the tune of £1,000. Its gross income this year will be £60.

The club provides free handball and racquetball facilities to students and pupils of all of Abbeyfeale's schools. Up to 100 young people are currently participating in handball at the centre near the fire station.

The saga began in 1981, when the older, open, mass-concrete alley was pulled down for safety. It had been falling apart for years.

Generous



Tomas O'Hanlon, Collins Park, Abbeyfeale, enjoys the handball court in Abbeyfeale this week.

appeal. This year, the first full year since the appeal, the County Council's rates warrant included the club premises, and the rates demand issued — £100.75p now, and a similar amount later.

treasurer, for his efforts. The decision not to charge a fee to the youngsters would stand, he said.

Mr. O'Kelly stated that he realised that the council, already hard pressed for money, could ill afford the cost of a waiver scheme, but added that many clubs simply could not afford the absence of one.

TODDS AUTUMN