

■ Parkway closure brings an end to 80 year family business



Gerry Clancy, Clancy's Electrical, who has been forced to close the firm's store at the Parkway roundabout

'End of an era' for Clancy's Electrical

Alan Owens

AN "UNSUSTAINABLE" decline in the retail industry in Limerick has led to the closure of the Clancy's Electrical store at the Parkway roundabout, with the loss of eight jobs.

Gerry Clancy told the Limerick Chronicle that the store's closure was "the end of an era" following nearly 80 years of the Clancy family name trading in Limerick.

Mr Clancy opened the 10,500 square foot premises in November 2008, and "consolidated" his business from 45 O'Connell Street with the closure of that store on August 24, 2009. The O'Connell Street store, a former cinema, was opened by Mr Clancy's grandfather in 1936.

"It was a very sad day - it is the end of an era," said Mr Clancy of the Parkway roundabout store closure.

"It was purely an economic

reason, lack of trade. There are no houses being sold, and with the amount of competition that is in the market, it

store is the result of a "horrific" last 12 months in the industry.

"It has been horrific what

"It has been horrific what has happened in the last 12 months in the industry" - Gerry Clancy

didn't support the number of outlets. We tried to do a couple of different things, and they didn't work and it was unsustainable unfortunately for a finish," he added.

Mr Clancy blamed the closure of the O'Connell Street store in 2009 on a "vast decline" in footfall and delivered a withering broadside to Limerick City Council for their perceived ineffectiveness at the time. However, the closure of the Parkway roundabout

has happened in the last 12 months," explained the Clancy's boss.

"The unemployment queue, unfortunately, is getting longer and longer and people are locked into mortgages and bills and everything else, and there is no expendable income to go to Clancy's and buy a new television. Our trade needs that to keep going.

"Speaking to peers in the trade all over the country, they are all experiencing the same

problems," he added.

Losing the final eight staff members - some of whom have been with Clancy's for several decades - was a very difficult prospect for Mr Clancy, as well as the loyal customers the business served, including "five different generations of the same family".

Mr Clancy assured the "one or two customers that are kind of caught in the middle" of the closure, would be "looked after".

"We were down to eight staff when we closed, we had just short of 40 at the peak four or five years ago," he said.

"It was a sad day, but it had to happen. I want to thank everyone that came into us, and all the staff that have worked with us down through the years."

A creditor's meeting will take place on August 17 in the Damer Court Hotel, Roscrea, at 2pm

CHRONICLE

Racism on i

THE recession increased incidents in Limerick, a new migrant rights group has found.

The report includes from migrants they have reported deep racism in some quarters since the recession took root.

Absolute tw

THE Absolute Harry's Mall is a number of courses next couple of weeks to improve business media.

The courses run on August 17 and 18 for Business, Two and Introduction for Business. To Mark, 087 9497083.

Bishop by (

IT is expected that a new bishop will be appointed to the diocese by Christmas. Three possible candidates have been sent to the Vatican for consideration over the next few weeks.

Some of those in the running are Monsignor Dan N. Walsh of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and Fr Eamon Mungret/Crecora.

Terryglas

A FEAST of arts and crafts events is planned for the village of Terryglass.

The Terryglass Arts Festival, which runs from August 13-15, features singer R. French singing traditional songs as well as street children's works and musical performances.

Special vo

THE volunteer group will ensure that the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising were held in the town. The event has been awarded a 100th anniversary award.

Ann O'Callaghan, who gave up her job to manage the event, said it was a very special day.

M7 to open

THE M7 motorway between Limerick and Nenagh will be opened in autumn, according to the schedule.

The completion has been delayed by the bog at the NRA now resolved and the

Ladies, now's your chance to Simply Be Curvy

Chronicle Reporter

the face of County Limerick

anna Connaughton from Waterford, who works as the