

has been outed as a hoax. No other tweets have been posted to the new page, but the account will undoubtedly become hotly followed by political pundits after a date for the

stipendiary office have been involved. He has voiced frequent opposition to the Green party's use of Twitter, but he told the Limerick Leader: "I have nothing against it particularly ... it

party colleagues. Deputy O'Dea's fall from grace came in February last, after he became embroiled with a defamation case with Maurice Quinlivan, then a Sinn Fein candidate for City

is also genuine. "Oh, I have thousands of friends on Facebook," he said, with a laugh. "It's going very well." He has nearly 3,000 friends on Facebook to date.

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chocolates, Irish coffees and hot whiskeys are the order of the day to warm shivering bodies. "We are just up the walls," said one of the store managers in Penney's on O'Connell Street. "Hats, scarves and similar items are just walking out the door. The dry weather is helping

issues with people getting in and out of town. "We need a busy shopping period for Christmas for traders, and a lot of people have said recently that they've made the conscious decision to come and support the city. Hopefully more people will adopt that mindset.

As temperatures plummeted to below zero this week, the pitch at Thomond Park was covered with straw and ground staff were expected to install a proper cover this Thursday in a effort to ensure the pitch is playable on Saturday evening. CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

The Perfect Christmas Present

4 Match Magners League Pack in Thomond Park
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Another one bites the dust: menswear shop McGovern's to close after 49 years

By Nell Treacy

ONE of Limerick's best known family businesses has announced it is set to close in the new year, after almost half a century of retailing in the city.

McGovern's Menswear of William Street, which celebrated its 49 year anniversary a fortnight ago, this week announced they will reluctantly cease trading at the end of January, after spending the past 12 months weighing up their options.

Proprietor Dermot McGovern, who took over the family business from his father Eugene, said that the closure due to the recession is "very upsetting" for everybody associated, and said the drop in footfall and increasing anti-social behaviour is having a troubling effect on the city.

"Footfall is dropping completely and it is proving very difficult to



Dermot McGovern is to close his shop due to the collapse in footfall

get the numbers in. And when the numbers are down, it will be very difficult to maintain a business.

"There is also the increasing problem of anti-social behaviour around town. From even as early

as 4pm onwards, things can be particularly bad. I've heard a lot of people complaining about it, but there is very little that can be done about it," he said.

One other contributing factor that Mr McGovern mentioned was that of the convenience of shopping centres, which he claimed offered more to shoppers than city retailers.

"Anybody coming in the road to Limerick from Askeaton, Newcastlewest and parts of North Kerry for the afternoon, they will reach the Crescent and it is just far more appealing to them. It's much safer, it's warmer, everything is within a close distance," he said.

"They aren't going to turn that down in favour of sitting in further traffic to get in to the city, meeting about ten sets of traffic lights. Then searching all over for parking, and having to pay for it on top

of that, and walking around in the cold," said Mr Govern.

Despite the business surviving a great fire in 1974, the recession has taken its toll and closure has been decided for the end of January.

The decision to finish trading was not made lightly however, as Mr McGovern says that the prospect has been considered for up to 12 months.

"We have been thinking about closing for about 12 months. But we kept thinking that if progress was made with the economy and things picked up, we would keep it going. Things haven't worked out that way though. It's very upsetting.

"We've marked the end of January as our finishing point. We have a lot of stock to sell, so there will be big sales for Christmas and the New Year."

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Proposals on boundary may be kicked to touch

Mike Dwane and Nick Rabbitts

PROPOSALS to reform local government in Limerick and extend the city boundary now look like they will be kicked to touch and left up to the new government.

Government sources told the Limerick Leader this week that the Environment and Local Government Minister is disposed to imple-

The Brosnan Report recommends a single authority for the city and county with an extension of the boundary within that new structure. But this would require legislation being brought through the Oireachtas at a time when TDs have more pressing national matters to deal with before the Government is ushered out of office.

Minister John Gormley was said

is trying to determine what can and can't be done and how best to do it," a Government source told the Limerick Leader.

The official confirmed that the Government could, if they wished, bring in the boundary extension for Limerick without any new legislation through the Dail.

"However the situation regarding the implementation of...

gamation might have to come under the new government. Things will be clearer in the weeks ahead when the Minister takes stock. The Minister's preferred choice would be to have the Brosnan Report brought through in full," he added.

The report's author Denis Brosnan said this Thursday: "It's up to the Government at