

# ESTATES: O'FLAHERTY LASHES OUT

**BUILDING CONTRACTORS** who leave new housing estates unfinished were this week slammed by Mr. Richard O'Flaherty, a Fianna Fail candidate in the next General Election.

He said that there was a tendency in recent years for contractors to walk out and leave such essentials as footpaths, roads and green spaces unattended to.

"Not all contractors fall into that category but nonetheless there are a few around", he said.

Dr. O'Flaherty said that on the course of his rounds he had heard numerous complaints, and on inspection found them to be valid.

There was also an undue delay, he continued, in handing over such estates over to the local authorities.

"The end result is that residents are left in limbo land once the contractor leaves - in other words they have nowhere to turn to have faults rectified".

## Agreed

A spokesman for Limerick County Council agreed that problems were often created once a contractor left a site.

More often than not the complaint lodged by the contractor is not sufficient to meet the cost of the repair work.

Back to Dr. O'Flaherty: The principal sources of concern to residents are lack of adequate lighting, pot holes

on the roads, unfinished footpaths and roads, and rubble strewn all over the site.

He called for tougher action against builders who were not prepared to fulfill the terms of their contracts.

His sympathy, he continued, rested with the unfortunate people who had invested their life savings in providing a roof over their

head.

"They entered a contract with the best of intentions and it is regrettable that unscrupulous builders should take advantage of them", continued Dr. O'Flaherty.

It was unfortunate, he said, that some should give the building industry a bad name.

"These are difficult times for the industry and it needs

every encouragement it can get - those who are long established thrive on their reputation and generally leave a site to the satisfaction of all concerned".

His criticism, he concluded, was levelled at those who sprung up overnight and were not prepared financially to take on major contracts.



Children playing in the rubble of a demolished house in John's Square, with St. John's graveyard and St. John's Cathedral behind.

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