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Saturday 18 February 2006

Largest newspaper distribution in the Mid-west

Vol.21. No 07.

Newly weds, Elaine Clancy and Cathal Turner display just some of the style

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and glamour that can feature for your special day. Turn inside to our Wedding

Country's first sports museum for Limerick

By Mary Earls

A PROPOSAL to establish Ireland's only dedicated sports museum in Limerick, was met with unanimous approval in City Hall this week.

Guaranteed to be a huge tourist attraction and to really place Limerick on the sporting map, the proposal was endorsed by the Cultural and Sporting Policy Committee of Limerick City Council this Monday.

And Limerick's Mayor Diarmuid Scully said that if it is approved at the next meeting of Limerick City Council,"then we can start looking into areas of funding and possible locations".

"Although this idea has been discussed many times in the past, this is the first time that it has progressed to this stage. It is still at concept level at the moment and we haven't secured funding. But we are in a unique situation because there is an awful lot of development going on in Limerick and opportunities are arising out of this, with various schemes and funding possibilities," he said.

Mayor Scully explained that the

New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame and National Sporting Museum was set up in the small town of Dunedin, which has a population of about 100,000 people.

And he said that with Limerick's rich sporting history there is no reason why we cant follow suit.

"What Dunedin shows us is that a Sporting Museum doesn't have to be based in the capital to be successful. Limerick has a rich and varied sporting history, and this would be the only sporting museum in Ireland that exhibited memorabilia from all sporting categories. And we could claim the National Sporting Museum title in time. It would be a huge tourism draw for the Limerick area and an obvious progression for the city, " he said.

Mayor Scully said that Limerick native, and Irish rugby team manager Brian O'Brien initially raised the idea with him.

But Cllr Michael Hourigan told the meeting that the late Tim O'Brien, of Continued on page 4

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15m euro plans

Exotic cats to strut

launched for

PAGE 10:

their stuff

Greyhound stadium

Daily news on the web @ www.limerickpost.le

06 feature for more details on preparations, hints and tips

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Editorial

18th February 2006

Nail their colours to the mast

LIMERICK'S mayor and the leaders of the various nolitical parties represented Voucher to be retained by McDonalds Limit one voucher per customer, per visit Cash Value 0.001c Subject to availability Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer

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for Limerick First Irish sporting

NEWS

O'Brien Communications, had been proposing this idea for years and he should be given "special recognition" in its execution.

Calling it a "very worthwhile proposal," Cllr Hourigan added that a city centre location would be crucial.

Speaking at the meeting, committee member, Bill Windrim said that it will be "one hell of a job to cover all sporting interests under" under the one roof.

"I certainly agree with this proposal but to properly represent all the various sports will be one heck of a job. We will need lots of co-operation from all the sporting bodies and the donation of lots of personal memorabilia. A lot of effort will also be needed to bring it from the past right up to the present day," he said.

concerns, Voicing

Limerick sports editor, Niall Cantrell said that security must be of the utmost importance and location is everything.

"There is an awful lot of sports memorabilia, information and documentation in Limerick and lots of local people have their own gems sitting at home. But they would have to be confident that their treasures were in safe

"This idea has been mooted many times in the past and a museum was even planned for Thomond Park. But the main problem was security. A suitable venue is critical - to ensure enough space is allocated to each sport. But I think a rugby museum in particular would be great for Limerick. For example rugby fans from New Zealand visiting Limerick wouldn't be very interested in seeing Gaelic football memorabilia. Limerick is the spiritual

home of Irish rugby and Thomond Park and Munster are practically brand names in rugby circles. That's why I think any sporting museum in the city really has to reflect this, he said.

With regard to the security that the museum would have to have the same level of security as any major museum with glass cases, alarms etc.

The biggest private rugby memorabilia collection in Limerick, which was featured in several TV programmes was owned by Johnny Brennan, who used to have his own museum in his home on the Hyde Road.

But the former player and lifelong member of the Young Munster club, ended up selling his vast collection to a local businessman some years back, because of a combination of lack of space, security and insurance costs.

diary

THURSDAY 16

DIRTY Dusting, comedy show of chars becoming telephone sex service team, at Millennium Theatre, 3 nights, 8pm/ 8.30pm/ 6pm; check

26th Annual Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous for 3 days, South Court Hotel, Raheen. Open meeting at 8pm tonight; Sunday 19th open meeting 2.30pm.

CINEMA in Limerick, a retrospective public lecture, at Limerick City Library, 8pm.

LIMERICK & District Chapter of the Irish Woodturners Guild holds AGM, 7.30pm, Kilmurry Lodge Hotel, Castletroy.

KAVROSH G Kashani's unusual mix of watercolour with digital perspective makes for 2 week

exhibition at County Library DERMOT Roche's exhibition of photographs continues at Java's Café, 7 days.

DENISE Coppola shows 20 new works, paintngs, at MPCC Credit Union, St Nessan's Rd, Dooradoyle; Feb exhibition.

LIMERICK City Gallery of Art is host to three exhibitions, Breda Lynch's; Irish Contemporary



weather

COOL, frosty weather returns by Friday night with sunny spells; some rain late Saturday clears on Sunday.