

## Lenihan considers tax incentives for Regeneration

THE Minister for Finance, Brian Lenihan, has promised that the provision of tax incentives for the Limerick Regeneration project would be given full consideration, after a prioritised plan to the Cabinet is made, according to Fine Gaél TD, Kieran O'Donnell.

The Limerick East opposition Deputy Finance spokesman for Fine Gaél said he had secured a firm commitment from Minister Lenihan on the matter.

The Department of Finance is due to receive a submission of a prioritised plan on tax breaks for the project by the Regeneration Agencies in Limerick, before the end of March.

It follows on the tabling of an amendment to the Finance Bill 2010 by Deputy O'Donnell with a view to providing tax breaks for construction works in Limerick Regeneration,

and was said to be the subject of lengthy debate between Deputy O'Donnell and the Minister.

Following the debate, Deputy O'Donnell told the *Limerick Independent*: "It is vital that the construction side of the regeneration project is started in order to re-establish credibility in the process and for its job creation potential for Limerick. I am pleased that Minister Lenihan has agreed to give full consideration to the provision of designated tax incentives towards the Limerick regeneration process as part of the prioritised plan to be submitted to cabinet by the Regeneration Agencies by the end of March."

He added: "I will be engaging again with him and the Department of Finance once the Regeneration plans are lodged with cabinet. Whilst we ur-

# Limerick rowers close to conquering Atlantic

**Rachael Finucane**

rfinucane@limerickindependent.com

AS LIMERICK oarsman Sean McGowan bravely battles across the Atlantic on his bid to be the first Irishman to row across the ocean, another locally based rower is nearing the finish of a team expedition.

Mike Jones—the manager of UL Activity Centre—is one of six crew on the vessel 'Sara G', which is around 500km from its finishing point in Barbados after a 5,000km journey.

One of the charities benefiting from the journey is Milford Care Centre while Farranshone native, Mr McGowan, is raising money for local charity working in South Africa, Soweto Connection.

He is continually updating his popular Facebook page with one of his latest updates describing how progress is slow, despite long hours, as he rows



Limerick man Mike Jones, front left, with his team-mates on their Atlantic bid

against strong currents.

His efforts on boat, 'Tess', were featured on 'Seascapes' on RTÉ Radio One last week and a podcast of the show is available on [www.rte.ie](http://www.rte.ie) while Mr Jones is also making podcasts about the progress of his team.

According to John Lannon of Soweto Connection, nearly €8,000 has been pledged on its website alone.

"He is a really brave man and I think he'll do

his very best to finish it. He has had some difficulties and early on, a wave broke several oars and locks. That knocked him back. There are many physical and psychological pressures but he keeps going. It's a huge challenge. There are a lot of experienced oarsmen and teams out there but his aim is to be the first Irishman to do this solo," he said.

Mr McGowan has around 2,700km to go—having rowed around

1,900km already—since the Atlantic Rowing Race from La Gomera to Antigua began on January 4.

On the RTÉ show, he referred to how heartening it is to get messages of support and Mr Lannon urged local people and schools to get involved.

"He loves to hear from people and has already gotten audio messages from schools for 'Shout out to Sean'. The uptake from schools has been slower than expected but the contribution from the public has been better than expected. Schools can still sign up to send a message of support to him. From the charity's point of view, the support has been brilliant and there are several other events planned but the money is coming in."

To follow Mr Jones' progress, see [www.atlantic5000.com](http://www.atlantic5000.com), and for Mr McGowan's progress, see [www.atlantic09.com](http://www.atlantic09.com)

## Parents warned on blind cords

PARENTS have been reminded by the National Standards Authority of Ireland of the 'dangers of window blind cords to children' following the recent tragic death of a young child who became entangled in the cord of a roller blind.

Maurice Buckley, CEO, NSAI, said he was "deeply saddened" to hear of the loss of another young child under such tragic circumstances.

"I would like to make parents more aware of the threat that looped cords on window blinds can pose to children. One of our roles as Ireland's national standards body is to protect consumer interests through the setting of standards in the quality and safety of goods and services. I would like to remind both parents and manufacturers of internal window blinds that there is a comprehensive standard in place, I.S. EN 13120 'Internal blinds—Performance requirements including safety', which specifies the requirements for the construction, installation



Pery Square Business College & Staff Agency  
4 Pery Square, Limerick. Tel: 061 310155  
[www.perysquareagency.ie](http://www.perysquareagency.ie)

## Alan Kelly video is hip to the rap posse

A RAP video produced during the European elections asking people to vote

The song—'Don't Make the Wrong Choice-Vote Alan Kelly' by Garry McCa-

in Dublin. Unfortunately while the Labour MEP won his seat last June, the

with Bord Fáilte and is a former recipient of an IIA Net Vision Award