Jackson Turret on Clancy Strand will be protected

By ANNE SHERIDAN

THREE historic buildings on Clancy Strand—set to be knocked for a five-storey block of apartments—are to be put on the Record of Protected Structures and saved from demolition.

City councillors were unanimously in favour this Monday that the area known as Jackson's Turret, which includes the three buildings of unique character, should be preserved.

Curragour House, Strandville and Roseville are the three buildings of special historical importance. It is believed that Roseville may have been a watch tower for the old Limerick harbour, dating back to 1786.

However, Cllr Kevin Kiely wondered if the Council would be "tying its own hands" by listing the buildings.

There are also a number of derelict buildings in the area and under new legislation the surrounding areas would also be protected, which could impede future planning applications for the area.

"We need some sort of development in the area and we could end up with a totally derelict site," said Cllr Kiely.

Dick Tobin, senior planner with Limerick City Council, said "any intelligent applicant will vary their plans accordingly".

The current application with Limerick City Council for the area of Jackson's Turret will continue to be dealt with by the planning authority.

The developer, city solicitor Gary Keogh, was told by City Council to go back to the drawing board this June as the current planning application for the area would be unlikely to succeed unless the development were scaled down.

"The whole aspect of that Strand is a very unique scene and it would be changed totally by these high rise apartments. These buildings are something we should look into and look after. It would be an eyesore to my mind," said Cllr Kathleen Leddin.

Mayor of Limerick Joe Leddin also said it's important that any development in the area would enhance the vicinity and not detract from it.

A report on the area was undertaken by a consultant firm, Architectural Conservation Professionals, which concluded that the area "contributes significantly to the architectural heritage of the city adding to the distinctly varied house and building types on Clancy's Strand".

A Section 59 declaration will define more precisely what sections of the area are central to the development.

Curragour House, located next to Roseville, also known as Jackson's Turret

LIMERICK CHRONICLE & LIMERICK LEADER: the only newspapers printed and published entirely in Limerick