



Cork City Council
Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí

CITY NEWS

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Welcome to this edition of City News. This is a publication by Cork City Council which is distributed to every household in the city as part of our ongoing commitment to inform the public of the services available to them from Cork City Council and the work we do on your behalf.

New extension to City Hall
opens for business



SEE PAGE 12

The Freedom of the City of Cork was conferred on Saturday, 2nd June 2007 on the entertainer Michael Flatley at a special ceremony in City Hall.

In his speech conferring the Freedom of Cork on Mr. Flatley, the Lord Mayor, Cllr. Michael Ahern said:

"In honouring Michael we are honouring someone who has taken a traditional Irish cultural and artistic form and re-invented it for the new Millennium without losing any of the skill, tradition or heritage of the form. He has brought Ireland and Irishness centre stage and no doubt inspired many others to do likewise.

Mr. Flatley responded in his speech by saying: "It is a great honour to be granted the Freedom of Cork city, proud capital of the county which is now home to Niamh, Michael St. James and myself. It is humbling to join such a distinguished list of Freeman and I will carry the honour with pride. I am grateful to Lord Mayor Ahern, the City Council and the people of Cork."

The ceremony was attended by over 300 guests including Mr. Flatley's parents Michael and Elizabeth, his wife Niamh, her mother Mrs. Monica O'Brien and other dignitaries.

City Council confer Freedom of the City of Cork on Michael Flatley



The Lord Mayor, Cllr. Michael Ahern, presenting the Silver Casket to Michael Flatley in the presence of City Manager Joe Gavin and M.C. Noreen Mulcahy, Corporate Affairs.

New Lord Mayor Elected Election of Lord Mayor of Cork



Lord Mayor Cllr. Donal Counihan and Lady Mayoress Breda, with their family Gillian, Kieran and Niamh.



Lord Mayor Cllr. Donal Counihan receiving the chain of office from outgoing Lord Mayor Cllr. Michael Ahern with City Manager Joe Gavin in the background.

Cork City Libraries Housebound Service,

operated from The Frank O'Connor Library, was piloted in the Mayfield/Montenotte area of the city in 2001. One of the few housebound library services in the country, it proved very popular with members of the community who, because of mobility problems, couldn't visit their local library. The first ever patron of the service was Mary Rohan of Montenotte who is still a regular user of the service.

In March 2007, with the acquisition of a new library van, an expanded city-wide service was launched by Lord Mayor, Cllr. Michael Ahern, in Mayfield. Books, audio books on CD and cassette, DVDs and videos may be borrowed and patrons may also request items. Special interests are also taken into account.

The van calls to individual homes, day-care centres and nursing homes on a regular basis and is manned by library staff. Patrons may come out to the van and choose their books or alternatively a selection can be brought into the home.

Information 4924900 or any branch library



Lord Mayor, Cllr. Michael Ahern, Mary Rohan, with Sinead Feely and John O'Sullivan, Cork City Libraries Housebound Service.



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Cork City Centre Strategic Area Plan

The Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr. Michael Ahern, launched the Cork City Centre Strategic Area Plan Report on Tuesday 19th June 2007 in the Council Chamber, City Hall. The Report gives an overview of Cork City Council's progress to date and future objectives for the city centre in 5 main areas.

These areas are:

- 1) The Retail Sector;
- 2) Office Sector;
- 3) Public Realm & Movement;
- 4) Arts, Culture & Tourism and
- 5) City Centre Living.

The Report assesses progress to date in each of these key areas and details important objectives to be considered in the future planning of the city centre and can be seen as a forerunner to the official review of the City Development Plan commencing in October of this year.

Key achievements in the last 5 years include:

Retail:

There has been a significant increase in developments coming forward to deliver the required expansion of the retail offering in the city centre. The city centre is well on course to meet the floorspace targets set out in the City Plan 2004 and deliver key city centre retail developments in high profile areas of the city centre. Major developments commenced in June on the Dunnes Stores site and in Academy Street. There is significant scope for additional developments in Cornmarket Street, Grand Parade, St. Patrick's Quay and Mc Curtain Street. Of the target set for completion by 2011 34,000 sqm are already completed or under construction with a further 20,000 sqm in the pre planning stage.

Public Realm & Accessibility:

The upgrading of St. Patrick's Street has created a shopping street of quality, having won a Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government award for shopping street of choice in Ireland. Based upon the success of this project a rolling programme of public realm improvements have transformed other key shopping streets, including Oliver Plunkett Street and Grand Parade, which will be completed later this year. The next 2 years will see up-grades to the streets leading from St. Patrick's Street to the South Mall and on Cornmarket Street, Parnell Place and St. Patrick's Bridge / Bridge Street.

City Centre Living: There has been an increase in people choosing to live in the city centre. Those people are availing of its improving standards of amenity and high quality apartments in new and historic buildings throughout the city centre. The population of the South Docks under the current Docklands strategy is projected to be 20,000 people or 8,700 households with an average household size of 2.3 persons

Office: The city centre has seen a major expansion in office property choice within the central area, with development completions and proposals coming forward in the eastern expansion zone of Lapp's Quay / Civic Quarter, and on Lavitt's Quay. Office growth has significantly exceeded the targets set out in CASP.



Kevin Terry, Director of Services, Planning and Development, Joe Gavin City Manager, Lord Mayor Cllr. Michael Ahern, Ann Bogan, Senior Planner and Jeremy Ward, Executive Planner at the launch of the Plan.

Culture, Arts and Tourism:

There has been an increase in new developments to provide for the needs of the growing culture and tourism sector in the city, including institutional developments and hotels. The success of cork city's tenure as Capital of Culture in 2005 has provided a new impetus in this area.

Speaking at the launch the Lord Mayor paid tribute to the progress made to date:

"Cork city centre has undergone significant change in the recent past. Using the strong national economic growth of the last decade Cork city centre has enjoyed growth in its retail offer and many other business sectors. Continued public and private investment in the city's public spaces has rejuvenated the city centre and improved its public image for all. Coupled with this, the city centre's population is on the increase and its arts, cultural and tourism base is benefiting from continued investment. The success of the city centre is crucial to the health and vibrancy of the overall city and region and so the delivery of a thriving, living and unique city centre is a

priority of Cork City Council.

"The success of the city centre can be attributed in larger measure to the commitment and actions of both the public and private sector who have worked closely to help ensure the city centre's potential is harnessed in a sustainable way. Cork City Council is committed to ensuring that the successes of the recent past are built upon and a progressive, inclusive and sustainable vision for the city centre is developed and implemented. The City has undergone great change and this momentum is likely to continue, with the consolidation and strengthening of the city centre and emergence of a new and dynamic urban quarter in Cork's docklands.

"I welcome the publication of this Strategic Area Plan report for the city centre and support the long term objectives contained within it. The future for Cork city centre is bright and Cork City Council will continue to play its part in developing Cork city as a thriving, living and unique city of international renown."

Annual Review of Register of Electors

The annual review of the Register of Electors will begin in August 2007. This will involve a door-to-door update of households within the city boundaries enquiring as to who is resident at that address to ensure their inclusion in the Draft Register of Electors 2008/09.

Every person who is 'ordinarily resident and over 18 years of age up to and including 15th February next' is eligible for inclusion in the Final Register of Electors 2008/09.

Forms for inclusion in the Register are available at Garda Stations, Post Offices and Libraries. Application forms are also available from the Franchise Section, Cork City Council Tel: (021) 4942107 / 4924108.

Higher Education Grants Scheme 2007

The Higher Education Grants Scheme 2007 is expected to be released by the Department of Education & Science in **July 2007**.

Once released, the Scheme and application forms will be available for collection from Cork City Council Higher Education Grants Section (021) 4924096 / 4924071.

These forms will also be available for **information purposes only** on Cork City Council's website: www.corkcity.ie/our-services/corporate-affairs/higher-education-grants/

Lord Mayor's Civic Awards & Community and Voluntary Awards

17th May 2007, Concert Hall, City Hall.

Civic Award recipients pictured with the Lady Mayoress Eileen Ahern and Lord Mayor Cllr. Michael Ahern.

Fr. James McSweeney

For outstanding leadership at Community and Parish level.

Cara O'Sullivan

For being an exceptional performer with outstanding vocal talent.

Proinnsias Ó Murchú

In recognition of his service to G.A.A. administration.

Garda Patricia O'Riordan

For promoting interculturalism in the City.

Michael O'Flynn

For exceptional contribution to the development of Cork

Bernice Glavin

For being a source of inspiration through her writings and poetry.



The Lord Mayor's Community and Voluntary Awards were established in 2004 to provide recognition for groups which, through their commitment to voluntary and community activities, have played a significant role in enhancing the quality of life of their communities. Over the past three years more than 300 groups, representing the diversity of community and voluntary activity in Cork, have been nominated for a Lord Mayor's Community and Voluntary Award and €25,000 in prize money has been shared between 33 groups in the City. On the night a total of ten awards were presented with a winner and runner-up in each of the following five categories;

- Art & Culture
- Children and Youth
- Community and Neighbourhood Services
- Equality and Social Inclusion
- Sport

Community and Voluntary Awards Sponsored by
Evening Echo **Express** **KITCHENS and FLOORS**

The winner of each category received a trophy and €1,000. The runner-up in each category received a trophy and €500.



Sport

Glen Amateur Boxing Club



Equality and Social Inclusion

Sick Poor Society



Art and Culture

Snippets Historical Cultural and Drama Group



Sport Runners up

Harbour Point Special Olympics



Children and Youth

St. Vincent's Guide Unit



Community & Neighbourhood Service

South Parish Community Association

Schools Environmental Quiz 2007

Thirty three teams took part in the Schools Environmental Quiz held on 15th May 2007. Prizes were presented by the Lord Mayor, Cllr. Michael Ahern, who praised the students for participating and thanked their parents and teachers.

1st Cloghroe N.S.

2nd Cloghroe N.S.

3rd Regina Mundi College

Éanna Ní Lamhna goes Wild at Lifetime Lab

As part of the annual **Lifelong Learning Festival**, Lifetime Lab hosted a number of talks by Éanna Ní Lamhna, the well-known botanist, writer and radio personality and President on An Taisce. She is, perhaps, best known for her work on RTE's 'Mooney goes Wild'. Éanna is widely regarded as an entertaining and informative speaker and has a special talent of bringing her subject to life, sharing her knowledge of wildlife and the environment in a fun and informative way.

Beginning with a breakfast briefing to invited guests, environmental education and the important role of communications were the topics discussed.

A presentation to the Cork city participants of the **Green School** programme followed. With an audience of over 80 teachers and students listening attentively, Éanna spoke on how schools across Ireland were successfully playing a vital role in protecting the environment and how the Green Schools programme was one of the most successful in Europe. In the afternoon Éanna delivered a talk open to the public who were delighted to get the opportunity to ask questions



Michael O'Brien Senior Engineer Environment, with Éanna Ní Lamhna in the grounds of the Lifetime Lab at the City Waterworks site.

Waste Services provided by Cork City Council include

- Refuse collection in all areas of Cork city
- Recycling bags delivered to your door
- Easy payment options
- Generous waiver Scheme and early payment discounts
- Dedicated Customer Service Team
- Hazardous Waste Collection by Chemcar
- I.S.O. Accredited Landfill Site
- Bulky goods collections in selected areas
- Civic Amenity Site
- An extensive bottle-bank network throughout the city
- Street sweeping and anti-litter support service

Guaranteed legal disposal of waste
TEL: 021-4924299

Air Pollution Report for 2006

Cork City Council staff led by Edmond Barry, Senior Executive Chemist, Environment Control, are charged with the responsibility of monitoring and reporting on the many air quality parameters. The report on **Air Quality for 2006** was recently completed. Here are the highlights:

While there is no safe level of air pollution, monitoring of the air in Cork city indicates that air quality is well in compliance with European standards. Monitoring is generally continuous and automatic through EU standard procedures. The decreasing trend in concentrations noticed in the last few years continued through 2006. There are two competing trends influencing the levels i.e. traffic numbers are increasing but, due to the European Auto Oil Programme, emissions of pollutants are reducing.

Particulates, as measured by the PM10 and PM2.5 parameters, are reduced from last year and are about 33% of the EU limit as are concentrations for nitrogen oxides and carbon monoxide. Benzene levels are about 10% of the limit while lead and sulphur dioxide levels are considerably lower. Ozone levels are up on last year but this parameter is also weather influenced, nevertheless concentrations are well in compliance.



Almost 5000 people took to the streets of Cork on Bank Holiday Monday, 4th June 2007 making the first Cork City Marathon in over 20 years an overwhelming success. The participants were cheered on by the many magnificent supporters who lined the streets and roads along the course. "The Team Relay, in which up to 5 people can share the marathon course in stages, was a particularly successful aspect of the event. With the stages ranging from 3.1 to 6.9 miles in length, the Relay allows people of most abilities to share in the excitement of the marathon. Almost 700 teams from all over the country and from all walks of life took part."

"An important aspect of the marathon as a civic event is the opportunity it gives to promote social inclusion, and this is where the Team Relay comes into its own. The short stage distances and the chance to compete in a team encouraged all sorts of people to take up the "baton", particularly with a prize on offer for the first community organisation to finish.

Relay teams included walkers and runners, first-timers and athletes, the old and young, men and women, the fit and the not-so-fit. There were representatives from the "northside" and the "southside", and at least four continents. There were pure Corkonians and asylum seekers; people fighting terminal illness and those who had won that battle; Special Olympians, Lions and scouts.

One of the representatives of Cork's "new communities" summed it up like this: "As asylum seekers we know that sport is offering an equal chance to everybody regardless of race, ethnicity and gender ... (running in the relay) ... is our way to integrate in the community spirit and action" The winner of the prize for the first community organisation will be announced very shortly – watch the local press !"



Winner of the Montenegro Hotel Cork City Marathon, Alan O'Shea, being presented with his trophy by the Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr. Michael Ahern and Darina Gately of the Montenegro Hotel

St. Patrick St. thronged with people for the closing stages of the City Marathon.



Dignitaries and Distinguished Visitors

The President of the Slovak Republic, Ivan Gašparovic, was awarded Honorary Membership of Cork City Council at a meeting of An Chomhairle on 28th March 2007.



The President, the first foreign official ever to be awarded Honorary Membership, received the honour in recognition of his role in strengthening the special relationship

between Cork and the Slovak Republic, in recognition of the integral part played by the Slovak Republic during Cork's reign as European Capital of Culture 2005 and the Enlargement – Bringing the 'new' Europe to Cork project, and of continuing and future collaboration.

The visit by the President and his wife, Mrs. Silvia Gasparovicova, to Cork was part of their State visit to Ireland from 25th to 28th March.



Pictured on the steps of City Hall
L to R: Mrs. Silvia Gasparovicova,
President Ivan Gasparovic, Lord Mayor,
Cllr. Michael Ahern, Joe Gavin, City Manager.



Bob Doyle, a 93 year old veteran of the Spanish Civil War, presented a copy of his book to Lord Mayor, Cllr. Michael Ahern telling of the exploits of the Irish in the Spanish Civil War.



Deputy Lord Mayor Cllr. Michael O'Connell met visitors from Bulgaria with Damien O'Mahony, Housing and Community.

San Francisco Mayor, Gavin Newsom, seated with Lord Mayor Cllr. Michael Ahern on the occasion of a visit by a Cork Delegation to our Twin City of San Francisco, standing at rear Cllr. Brian Bermingham, Cllr. Donal Counihan and County Mayor, Cllr. John O'Shea.



City Manager Joe Gavin with British Ambassador David Reddaway and Lord Mayor Cllr. Michael Ahern.



Corkman Richard Morgan, World under 75 years indoor rowing champion (attained at the World C'ship in Harvard in Boston)and a member of Shandon Rowing Club showing his medal and trophy to the Lord Mayor Cllr. Michael Ahern. He was accompanied on his visit by fellow Shandon club officers Frank Coughlan and Tom Rose.



Visitors from our Twin City, Cologne, Germany were greeted by the Lord Mayor Cllr. Michael Ahern, Elected Members and Jo.Gazely and Ger Kelleher, Corporate Affairs.



Lord Mayor Cllr. Michael Ahern with Estonian Ambassador Andre Pung and Ursula Ramsell, Corporate Affairs.

Sheltered Housing Turners Cross

Spring signalled a new beginning for residents of a sheltered housing complex designed and built by Cork City Council at Skabeg Corner, on the Curragh Road in Turners Cross. The first residents moved into the scheme of 17 apartments in March following completion of building work by John F. Supple Ltd. A Community Centre for the Turners Cross Community Association has also been built as part of this housing project which is aimed primarily at elderly. The Centre will enable residents to partake in community activities and will allow them to avail of services on site.



The scheme is just one of a number of sheltered housing projects being developed by the City Council in an initiative which will also enable older house owners to down-size to smaller accommodation more suited to their needs. The City Council's Downsizing Scheme allows the Council to purchase houses at a discounted price in exchange for a tenancy in designated elderly accommodation.

"The demand and reaction in the case of the Turners Cross scheme has been hugely positive" said Pascal O'Leary of the City Council's Housing and Community Directorate. "And we are looking forward to similar interest in future schemes coming on stream at Shandon, Blackrock and Knocknaheeny" The Downsizing Scheme also allows for people to apply for more traditional elderly accommodation at locations such as Maddens Buildings on the Northside and Horgans Buildings on the Southside of the city. The continued success of the Scheme will see further schemes being brought forward at other locations across the city.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the Downsizing Scheme should contact Pascal O'Leary at **021 4924668** or pascal_oleary@corkcity.ie

Affordable Housing Scheme

Cork City Council's Affordable Housing Section were invited to take part in a First Time Home Buyers Show in the Radisson SAS in February. The aim of the show was to provide first time house buyers with the financial, legal and technical knowledge and advice they might need to make a purchase, under one roof. The City Council's stand proved to be one of the most well visited of the 60 assembled, staff were on hand to give clear and concise information to interested parties regarding all aspects of affordable housing and how it might be very suitable to a person's needs. There were question and answer sessions in which people's queries were resolved and their options were outlined. The feedback from the attendees was very positive, particularly the realisation that the Affordable Housing Scheme can provide homes that are not beyond their budget e.g. a three bedroom house in Shanakiel that retails on the open market for €375,000 can be purchased through the affordable housing scheme for €230,000, a huge saving of €145,000.

Information: housing@corkcity.ie Tel. **021 4924402, 021 4924512**



Elaine Kiely and Kevin Sheehan Housing & Community on the City Council stand.

Cork Foyer Celebrates its First Year of Operation

The need for a Foyer in Cork was first identified by Cork City Council in the mid-1990s and its establishment was an objective in the Council's first Integrated Homelessness Strategy in 2001. The Foyer concept is based around providing support for homeless young adults in an integrated and holistic manner, helping them to progress from dependence to independence and thus enable them to assume their rightful place in the local community.

In 2003 the Assumption Convent in Blackpool was purchased by the City Council and following its sensitive refurbishment re-opened its doors as the Cork Foyer in March 2006. The facility carries the unstinting support of the City Councillors as well as other state agencies, including the Health Services

Executive, FAS and V.E.C. and is run by a Management Committee which includes representatives of the agencies, as well as representatives of the Foyer residents and the Blackpool Community Association.

During the past eighteen months, Cork Foyer has moved on substantially, providing an opportunity to celebrate many early achievements, including hosting a variety of training programmes, such as the fourteen week Life Skills Programmes facilitated by the YMCA, ECDL, cookery classes facilitated by the VEC and much more, not to mention the variety of voluntary work including Creative Writing, Arts, Hip Hop, etc. Cork Foyer is rightly proud that seven of the early residents have successfully moved on from the Foyer, as part of a planned resettlement programme.

Having established the Foyer Support Service, Cork Foyer arranged an Away Day at the Commons Inn

on 2nd May involving all key stakeholders, staff and residents to review the first year of operation. The collective experience, expertise and vast knowledge gained from the participants, will be used to broaden the Foyer's 2008 – 2011 Development Plan, to the benefit of all stakeholders concerned, particularly residents of the Foyer and future users of the service.

The first Annual Report for the Cork Foyer has now been produced for 2006 providing a wealth of information about the first chapters in the story of Cork Foyer – "a place to live and learn" (Foyer Federation). A copy of the Cork Foyer 2006 Annual Report can be found on the Cork City Council website www.corkcity.ie



Barry Waddingham (far right), Foyer Manager, with representatives of key stakeholder organisations supporting the Foyer along with members of the management committee.

Launch of Glenfields Childcare Service

Glenfields Childcare Service was launched by the Lord Mayor, Cllr. Michael Ahern on the 15th June.

Cork City Council provided the Glenfields purpose-built Childcare Facility as part of the Glenfields Housing development in Ballyvolane. The building was funded by the **DOEHLG**. It is now operational for over a year. Cork City Council have a good record in providing accommodation for community facilities. Specifically with regard to Childcare, City Council recently provided purpose-built facilities for Lus-na-Meala Naionra in Banduff, the Togher Family Centre and are currently developing facilities and funding for Barnardos' "Brighter Futures" in Knocknaheeny, Cushing House in Farranree, Susies Field in The Glen. Alongside these are many other Family Support and Childcare Services accommodated in our various housing estates and other forthcoming purpose-built projects. From the beginning, a partnership involving Housing and Community, Cork City Partnership, Cork City Childcare Company and HSE co-ordinated the development of the building and the management of the Glenfields service. This partnership previously developed and currently manages the childcare service in Lus na Meala, Banduff. They now form the management committee along with the Bon Secours, the parents and the Ballyvolane Community Association.

A Manager and eight staff run the service, catering for over 65 children on a full day and sessional basis. The building has a crèche, a pre school, provides meals for the children and is open from 8.30am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday. Also the Centre caters for a local elder care group who meet on a weekly basis, providing a social outlet for elderly people living in the area and a meeting space for a local art group.

At different stages this community based service has been supported by Housing Capital, Housing Maintenance, Roads, Parks and the Builder. Revenue Funding is provided by a combination of Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme, the HSE South and the Bon Secours. Some special needs services are supported by voluntary organisations.

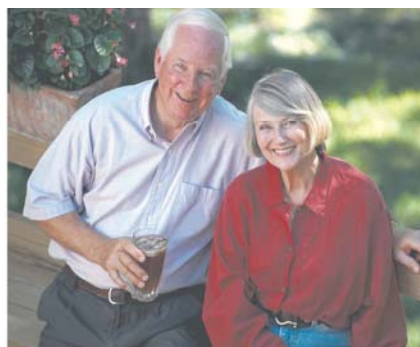


Helena O'Sullivan (Manager) Sr. Mary O'Mullane (Bon Secours), Sr. Mary Margaret (Bon Secours), Eleanor Moore (HSE South), Kathleen Lynch TD, Paul Moynihan and Derry O'Donovan, Housing and Community, Nick Condon (Bon Secours).



COMHAIRLE CATHRACH CHORCAÍ
CORK CITY COUNCIL

DOWNSIZING SCHEME FOR THE ELDERLY



Are you aged 60 or over, and do you own your own home?

Are you a Cork City Council tenant aged 60 or over?

Do you find that your home is too big for your needs?

We May Have The Solution...

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED AND REQUIRE FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT:

Pascal O'Leary at (021) 4924668 or pascal_oleary@corkcity.ie, or call to Cork City Council, City Hall, Housing Department, Anglesea Street, Cork, or alternatively application forms and further information can be downloaded from the City Council's website at www.corkcity.ie/ourservices/housing&community/downsizingscheme.



The St Patrick's Festival on the weekend of 17th March to 19th March was very well received, attracting large crowds to the city. The Festival was organised by Cork City Council, with sponsorship also being received from Cork Airport and Barry's Tea. The parade attracted more than 40 entries, in addition to two professional entries funded by the Council, Spraoi and Dowthcha Puppets. A Food Fair was held at Emmet Place on the Saturday with a Fun Fair at Alfred Street all weekend.

Curraachs from Naomhóga Chorcaí pictured at the official launch of Ocean to City, which this year finished in Cork city by the Clarion Hotel.



Ocean to City 2007 - Saturday 2nd June 2007

The event will take place again in 2008 on 31st May.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!! If you are interested in becoming involved with the Ocean to City Race as a Volunteer OR as a participant then we would love to hear from you! We need lots of people to help out both on and off the water so if you'd like to be part of the action next year, e-mail us at info@oceanacity.com or call Siubhán McCarthy, Event Manager 4847673 and JOIN IN! This event was proudly supported by Cork City Council and McCarthy Developments. Associate sponsors are – Port of Cork Company and CHI Therapy who have confirmed for 2008.



Padre Pio Nursery School Tree Grove opened by Lord Mayor Cllr. Michael Ahern

Cosmos at the Castle Interactive Visitor Exhibition at historic Blackrock Castle launched by Lord Mayor

The Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr. Michael Ahern, formally launched Cosmos at the Castle, the final element of the Observatory and Interactive Visitor Centre at Blackrock Castle, Cork on Thursday, 14th June 2007 at 4.00 p.m. The Castle now houses one of Ireland's foremost astronomical research facilities.

The state-of-the-art interactive science centre 'Cosmos at the Castle' in Cork's historic Blackrock Castle highlights recent discoveries of extreme life forms on Earth and their implications for life in space. It invites interactive debate on mankind's ultimate place in the Universe. A gallery of cinema sized high-definition digital video screens with proximity sensors allow visitors to interact with the process of the evolution of the entire Universe and of life on Earth.



Lord Mayor opens Cosmos at the Castle

Leo Enright Scientific Advisor, Lord Mayor Cllr. Michael Ahern, Lady Mayoress Eileen Ahern, City Manager Joe Gavin, Niall Smith Head of Research C.I.T. and Damien O'Mahony Cork City Council who was the Project Manager.



Role playing displays in the Forum area allow visitors to express their own views on the future of space exploration and the religious, philosophical and cultural challenges posed by the possibility of alien

intelligence. They can compose their own impression of life on Earth, and use the radio telescope on the roof to target an exo-planet orbiting a distant star to transmit this to. One of the more exciting interactive elements of the installation is Comet Chaser, Ireland's first fully interactive immersive cinema experience which challenges audiences to work together on a space mission to track and divert a comet threatening the Earth.

Commenting before the launch of the Cosmos at the Castle element of the project,, the Lord Mayor, Cllr Ahern said:

"The telescopes at Blackrock can be used by school or specialist groups to take pictures, for purposes of research, education or just to capture the beauty of the universe of which we're all a part. This integration of research, interactive astronomy exhibition centre and school outreach makes the Blackrock Castle project unique in Ireland. These hi-tech functions in an historical landmark setting are a most appropriate use for this resource. They provide Cork with the opportunity to offer a unique experience to our own citizens and visitors to the city alike."

'Cosmos' was designed by Sandycove based Martello Media.

**COSMOS
AT THE CASTLE
OPEN TO THE
PUBLIC
14th JULY 2007**

An amenity and car parking facility for approx. 44 cars adjoins the Project adjacent (East) to the Castle.



Civic Reception for Mercy Hospital (M.U.H.) on its 150th Anniversary

The Lord Mayor, Cllr. Michael Ahern, and the Lady Mayoress, Eileen Ahern, with members of the Mercy Order in the Lord Mayor's Chamber at a Civic Reception, honouring Mercy University Hospital on its 150th Anniversary on 13th March 2007.

Addressing the invited audience the Lord Mayor paid tribute to the generations of service the "Mercy" had given to the people of Cork:

"Situated in one of the oldest parts of the city, the "Mercy" has been synonymous with the care of the people of Cork for over a century and a half of the city's remarkable history. It has been a caring resource, a place of healing, of comfort and compassion. It has been single-minded in its attitude to health care, professional and demanding in its standards, progressive and innovative in its approach."

The Lord Mayor reminded the invitees of the fact that the older Mercy building was in fact the Lord Mayor's residence for part of its history and concluded by congratulating the staff and board of the hospital on recent developments and on their ambitious future plans:

"On behalf of the City Council and of the people of Cork I congratulate you on your achievements and your vision and I thank you for the part you have played in making the Mercy part of the fabric of this great city".



Lord Mayor Opens 'Seamus Murphy and Blackpool' Exhibition at Cork City and County Archives

On Thursday 31st May, the Lord Mayor Cllr. Michael Ahern opened an exhibition entitled 'Seamus Murphy and Blackpool' at the new purpose built Cork City and County Archives, Blackpool. The exhibition forms part of the city-wide Seamus Murphy Centenary celebrations, and is a joint effort between Cork City and County Archives and Blackpool Historical Society. The opening of the exhibition was attended by Seamus Murphy's family and friends as well as members of the local community. The exhibition includes original drawings made by Murphy when designing the Church of the Annunciation, Blackpool, as well as photographs and other materials relating to the great sculptor. The exhibition will be on display from June until September at the new Cork City and County Archives building, Great William O'Brien Street, Blackpool. In September, the new Archives building is to be renamed by Cork City Council after Seamus Murphy.



GOBLETS FOR MUSEUM

Joe Kennelly, Director of Services, Recreation, Amenity and Culture, Dan Wallace T.D., City Manager Joe Gavin, Stella Cherry, Museum curator. Dan Wallace, on retiring from national politics, presented a pair of Silver Goblets to the Cork Public Museum; the Goblets had been presented to him while he was Lord Mayor of Cork in 1985 when Cork celebrated "Cork 800" its 800th anniversary of the presentation of the Royal Charter.



Civic Reception for Professor Aine Hyland on her retirement as Vice-President of U.C.C. pictured with M.C. Josephine Gazely, Corporate Affairs, Lord Mayor Cllr. Michael Ahern and Lady Mayoress Eileen Ahern.

Car-Sharing in Cork City

Access to a car without the hassle of owning one!

Cork City Council's Traffic Division is considering the feasibility of the setting up of a car-sharing service (or "car club") in Cork. Car-sharing in urban areas is a cost-effective alternative to owning your own car. It allows people access to a car when they need it, from a place near their home or workplace. The car can be used for short trips lasting as little as an hour or booked for a few days. You only pay for the hours you keep the car and the distance you drive.

The advantages of car-sharing are numerous:

Easy to use: after registration you just book it, jump in the car and drive away.

Flexible: book a car for as little as an hour, on-line or calling a booking centre.

Affordable: just pay for the time the car is in use and the distance driven.

Planet-friendly: car-sharing globally reduces parking pressure and car use, helping to combat pollution and climate change.

Reserved parking: cars are conveniently located in reserved places close to where you live or work.

Car-sharing has been successfully implemented in various European countries such as Switzerland, Germany, Netherlands, Italy and the UK. Why not in Cork? A feasibility study is being carried out on behalf of Cork City Council and a public consultation stage is now on track to assess the potential market of such a service as well as to define the best locations of a car club in the city centre.

Tell us what you think!

If a car-sharing scheme is of any interest for you please take part in our on-line [Cork Car-Sharing Club Survey](#).

Also don't hesitate to get in touch with Traffic Division to get more information or to give your opinion:

Noel Tummon, Traffic Division, Cork City Council

VHI Buildings, 70 South Mall, CORK Tel: 021 492 4452

E-mail: traffic@corkcity.ie E-mail: richard@ratransport.co.uk

Website: <http://www.ratransport.co.uk/stcarclubs.html>

Happy Heart Lifestyle Challenge

Some twenty six Cork City Council employees recently received certificates from the Irish Heart Foundation for successfully completing the Lifestyle Challenge. At first, the initiative was to create awareness of the environmental effects of being too dependant on the private car and to bring about a behavioural change in the travelling habits of employees when on short trips.

The Lifestyle Challenge involved a 16-week commitment to physical activity, with fitness levels being monitored by UCC. For most of the participants, it is a work in progress! the health benefits of being more active was the biggest motivating factor.



Pic. shows Anne O'Riordan, (2nd right seated) Irish Heart Foundation presenting the Certificates.

Cornmarket Streetscape and Canopy Project



The appointment of Architectural Designers for the Cornmarket Streetscape and Canopy Project has just been finalised.

The design competition which took place during the latter part of 2006 involved a three phased selection process. Initially seventy eight requests for information from designers were received; this was then reduced down to ten applicants who were invited to complete their concept designs for evaluation.

The second stage in the process consisted of an evaluation of these individual designers and their proposals followed by a final interview of the four best.

The winning applicant was somebody we are all familiar with, namely Ms Beth Gali from Barcelona in Spain.

The winning design (Ref Image) involves the creation of wide pedestrian friendly areas with ample space for enhancing the street market trading activities as well as supporting the traditional and proposed uses of the street. The projects ambition is to further enhance the city centre by creating yet another vibrant street within the city core.

The character of this street is slightly different to some of its neighbouring streets and as such this character difference has tried to be captured and reflected in the proposed design.

One of the most unique features of the design involves the construction of a canopy over a portion of the street that will facilitate all weather outdoor trading as well as creating a covered events area for the city when the market is not operational. The exact nature of this structure has yet to be defined but it is sure to become an iconic city centre symbol.

It is anticipated that work will commence during the early part of 2008 and be complete within 15 months of that date.

Demand Responsive Transport - Good 2 Go Mascara Project

Cork City Council held a very successful and highly productive Conference, launched by Minister of State in the Department of Transport, Pat the Cope Gallagher, in the Clarion Hotel to discuss Demand Responsive Transport Services (DRTS). The Conference took place on 8th and 9th February 2007. The City Council's Traffic Division hosted the Conference as part of its involvement with the Mascara Project - an EU funded project to examine the potential of DRTS and how they can be built into regional transport strategies. Indeed the City Council is currently finalising a Feasibility Study on whether the service should be introduced to Cork city, and in particular into the north-west areas like Blarney St, Knocknaheeny, Gurranabraher, and Farranree where existing bus services do not meet all the the needs of the residents.

DRTS is a flexible shared transport system providing a service that lies between ordinary buses and taxis.

The service usually operates with small size buses on flexible routes and schedules. Delegates and speakers at the Conference came together from all corners of Europe and Ireland to discuss operational and technical issues and included interactive workshops. The focus was on problem-solving and knowledge exchange with a view to moving DRTS to a higher level.



Delegates and speakers at the Conference



This year Cork City Council celebrated Seachtain na Gaeilge in style by supporting a number of Irish language events. Tommy Cunneiffe provided a wonderful musical backdrop to proceedings at coffee break in the canteen in the New Extension to City Hall, Éanna Ní Lamhna of RTE gave a number of public lectures and presentations in conjunction with the library service and the Kino cinema screened the new full length Irish language feature film *Cré na Cille* on Saturday 10th March which was very well attended by employees and members of the public alike.

Ceiliúridh Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí seachtain na Gaeilge I mbliana le tacaíocht a thabhairt do eachtraí eagsúla ar fud na cathrach. Bhí ceol brea bríomhar Tommy Cunneiffe le clois I gceantín nua Halla na Cathrach ar an gCéadaoin 14ú Márta. Thug an chraoltóir Eamhna ní Lamhna ó RTÉ leachtaí ar son leabharlannai Chorcaí agus thaispeáin an Kino an scannán nua *Cré na Cille* le Máirtín o Cadhain a fhreastal breis is 100 duine idir fostaithe an Chomhairle agus baill den phobal air.

Chun úsáid na Gaeilge a speagadh i measc na ndaoine, beimid ag corr-abairtí agus seanfhocail i ngach leagan den nuachtlitir seo as seo amach.
To encourage use of the Irish language among our customers we will be putting phrases and idioms in Irish in each issue of this newsletter.

Na ceithre rud is measa amú; ceann tinn, béal seirbh, intinn bhuartha, agus poca folamh.

The four least useful things; a headache, a bitter mouth, a worried mind, and an empty pocket.

Trí ní is deacair a thuiscint; intleacht na mban, obair na mbeach, teacht agus imeacht na taoide.

Three things hardest to understand; the intellect of women, the work of the bees, the coming and going of the tide.

Seanfhocail Ghaeilge

Más maith leat siocháin, cairdeas, agus moladh, éist, feic, agus fan balbh.

If you wish for peace, friendship, and praise, listen, look, and say nothing.

Trí saghas incheann: inchinn reatha, inchinn cloiche, inchinn chéarach.

Three kinds of brains: a running brain, a rock brain, a wax brain.

Dá fhada an lá tagann an tráthnóna.
However long the day, the evening will come.

Buachóirí Comórtas City News Nollaig 2006

I Mí na Nollag 2006, bhuaidh na daoine seo a leanas cóip den dlúthdhiosca *The Gaelic Hit Factory* le John Spillane agus Louis de Paor agus cóip freisin den Úrscéal Graificeach, *An Táin*.

City News December 2006 Competition Winners

In the December issue of City News, the following won copies of the CD by John Spillane and Louis De Paor *The Gaelic Hit Factory* and a copy of the Graphic Novel, *An Táin*.

Tom Moore, Ballinlough Road; **Kay O Riordan**, Bishopstown; **Elaine Kiely**, Cork; **Muireann Ní Dhonnacha**, Kinsale, **Réiltín Werner**, Waterfall/Baile Nóra, **P.J. Roddy**, Cork, **Ann Fitzgerald**, Ballintemple.

Do b'iad na freagraí ceart ná / The correct answers to the questions posed were

1. **Harald agus Sonja**
2. **1986**
3. **13/11/2006**

Comhghárdeas dos na buachóirí uilig - Congratulations to all winners

BRÁTACH Uaine DROMMTA AR GAELSCOIL AN TEAGHTAIGH NAOFA



The Lord Mayor Cllr. Michael Ahern, recently hoisted the Green Flag at Gaelscoil an Teaghtai Naofa Ballyphehane to recognize their success in attaining a Green Award from the Environment Directorate, Cork City Council. The principal Green Award scheme is the Green Flag scheme for schools which recognises the efforts of students to improve their school environment by implementing a waste management scheme. The applicants generally (a) perform an audit of waste production and (b) examine the purchasing policy in their school. They are then required to improve the current situation through the implementation of some waste management measures (e.g. purchase of recycled goods, implementation of composting schemes, etc.). It is planned to introduce some other Green Award schemes for other sectors (e.g. Fáilte Glas Campaign for hotels).

In February City Manager, Joe Gavin, Director of Services Recreation Amenity and Culture, Cork City Council, Joe Kennelly, City Librarian, Liam Ronayne, and Michael Conway of Frinailla Developments signed contracts in the City Manager's office, City Hall, Cork to mark the building of a new Central Library at Grand Parade.

L.to R. front row: Kevin Terry, Director of Services, Planning and Development, Joe Kennelly, Director of Services R.A.C., Lord Mayor Cllr. Michael Ahern, Joe Gavin, City Manager, Michael Conway Junior, Director, Frinailla Developments and Michael McDonagh, City Architect. L.to R. back row: Ronnie McDowell, Senior Planner, Liam Ronayne, City Librarian, Fiona Kelly, Senior Executive Solicitor, Law Dept., Deborah G. Hegarty, Law Agent, Justin Fennell, Solicitor, P.J. O'Driscoll & Sons. Paul Butler, Michael Regan and Lorenzo Cammoranesi from Reddy O'Riordan Staehli

City Council sign contracts for New Central Library for Cork



Lord Mayor opens new extension to City Hall

The Lord Mayor, Cllr. Michael Ahern and the City Manager, Joe Gavin, unveiled the Monolith marking the opening of the extension to City Hall on Friday, 8th June 2007 in the presence of Cork City Councillors, Dignitaries, Contractors and City Council staff.



Cork City Manager, Joe Gavin, speaking at the opening ceremony outlined the background, when the accommodation at City Hall became inadequate, the Council had to rent extra space at various locations, an arrangement far from ideal. It led to inefficiencies and was not very convenient for the public, the Councillors or the staff. "Four years ago we decided to build an extension on what was then a surface car park adjoining City Hall. This would provide a civic complex where all City Council Departments could be housed on the one campus. As we moved to build this extension we were very conscious of the jewel which we have in the main City Hall which was opened in 1936. In the last two years we have had the magnificent

stonework of City Hall professionally cleaned, we had its railings refurbished, a state of the art flood lighting system installed and its surrounding footpaths replaced with granite and limestone paving representing an overall investment of €1.5m. It takes its place as one of the finest buildings in the city in the modern era. It is seamlessly interconnected with the main City Hall and, though being of modern design and constructed of modern materials, is complimentary to the main building. It symbolises the confidence and vibrancy of the city today as it undergoes a period of sustained development and extends eastwards to regenerate its historic docklands. Áras fíoruasal, álainn, dea cumtha isea an t-áras seo."



The Lord Mayor Cllr. Michael Ahern officially opened the new €35million extension to Cork's City Hall. Speaking at the Opening, the Lord Mayor said "When the decision to extend the existing City Hall was taken, the history of the building was very much to the forefront of the project team. The idea was that the new building had to complement City Hall rather than dominate it." He continued "the central aim of this impressive building is to provide quality services conveniently, effectively and efficiently to the people of Cork, and they deserve no less than the best." The offices of the Lord Mayor and elected members of Cork City Council also continue to operate out of

City Hall. It is envisaged that all cultural and political aspects of the City Council's work will remain at the original City Hall, while the extension to the building will serve as a major centre for the Council's administrative capacity. In conclusion I wish to acknowledge and thank the project team who made this dream a reality. I couldn't hope to mention all involved but the project teams at Cleary Doyle Contracting Limited and their architects, ABK, who interpreted the brief so sympathetically and imaginatively deserve special praise. I hope this building will serve the people of Cork for generations to come and congratulate all involved in this magnificent achievement.



Some of the stunning views of the new extension which has won a R.I.B.A. Award (Royal Institute of British Architects)

