

Appendix 6E
Newspaper Advertisements and Media Coverage

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NEWS

Public consultation on proposed new Tarbert Power Station

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A history of The Green's bandstand and why it's no harm to consider its return

By STEPHEN FERNANE

IT'S true of most things that are no longer considered useful that they manage to find favour again at some future date. The old bandstand in Tralee Town Park is one such amenity worthy of entry in this category.

The bandstand will be clear in many people's minds, while for others it will come as fresh news that it even existed. I vaguely recall the bandstand in the 1980s when it was located close to the algae-ridden pool that functioned as a park fountain.

During the Rose of Tralee Festival, the bands would perform there, but for the most part it was usually in a state of disrepair. It wouldn't be the most unimaginative idea to explore the option of returning a bandstand to Tralee Town Park again for recitals and mini concerts.

The ornate bandstands in places like Dún Laoghaire and Kennedy Park in Cobh are good examples of how they add charm to a location.

Although once a symbol of Victorian pomp and ceremony, the bandstand in Tralee is very much rooted in the Trade Union movement of the 1920s and 1930s when the 'Band of the Transport and General Workers' Union' regularly played concerts in the park to 'repeated outbursts of applause'.

The Workers' Band - as they were better known in Tralee - would also lead GAA teams in parades at local matches.

Demand for the bandstand in Tralee Town Park reached a peak in the summer of 1933

when Tralee Urban Council proposed a bandstand be erected in the park 'to accommodate the members of this popular band' who have given recitals that attract large numbers of the 'music loving people' of the town.

The Kerry News in August 1933 wrote that 'it was glad to see' Tralee Urban Council appreciate the services of the Workers' Band to the town.

Moreover, the Labour organisation in Tralee is credited with purchasing The Green as a town park and 'it is fitting it should now come to the front in supplying musical recitals in that beautiful park for the delectation of its citizens.'

It's thought Tralee Town Park's bandstand was erected sometime during the summer of 1934, where it survived for several decades.

The Kerry News stated how 'for a long time' it had been urging the organisation of band promenades in the town park to act in providing a bandstand.'

The Kerry News even describes how visitors to Tralee, on business trips, devote 'their spare time listening to the brass band and in doing the rounds of the park, which they have declared to be one of the most beautiful in Munster.'

As the years passed, Tralee Town Park Committee was formed in the early 1960s with the intention of reviving the park as an amenity, this included the restoration of its bandstand.

It seems little in the way of progress was achieved when in 1971 another meeting of Tralee

Town Council met to discuss the condition of the park with its 'overgrown pathways'. It was again proposed to alter the 'landscape of the park' and that its 'fountain and bandstand be revived.'

The bandstand seems to have finally been demolished, without much opposition from the public - although I stand to be corrected on this - in the early 1980s bringing its almost half-century link with the town to a close.

Tralee Town Park today means as much to the people as ever. This is evident in its stunning design and layout.

The addition of the bandstand would add a renaissance feel to it, a designated place that functions as a focal point within the park throughout the year.

Why not? After all, what's new is usually old.



Tarbert Island set to pivot to biofuel

By STEPHEN FERNANE

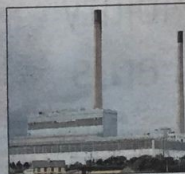
A SERIES of consultation events organised by SSE Thermal will be held this July for residents in Kerry and Limerick to give their views on plans to convert Tarbert power station to biofuel.

Power plant owner SSE Thermal said that under the plans the plant would be run on 100 per cent sustainable biofuels, namely Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) - a fuel produced from waste oils to create a fossil-free alternative to diesel, in line with EU sustainability standards.

The station could also, potentially, convert to hydrogen in the future, further supporting Ireland's net zero ambitions.

The online consultation opens on July 10, while in-person events take place at the Tarbert Community Centre and the Listowel Arms Hotel on July 18 & 19.

Current operations at Tarbert Power Station are due to close by the end of 2023, in



Tarbert Island power plant

alignment with environmental requirements.

SSE Thermal is also progressing with the development of a Temporary Emergency Generation project at the site, providing an additional 150MW of generation capacity, operating until 2028 at the latest.

"Our consultation events are a great opportunity for members of the public to learn more about our proposed station, give feedback and ask questions of the Project Team," said Conor Joy, community liaison officer for SSE Thermal.

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AS OLD TARBERT STATION PREPARES TO CLOSE...



CLOSURE: Tarbert Power Station is to close after half a century providing electricity, people from North Kerry and West Limerick.

Locals have say on Tarbert's energy plans

- Public to be consulted online and in person
- New green station could be operational by 2026

WITH THE closure of Tarbert Power Station now just months away after over half a century providing electricity, people from North Kerry and West Limerick have been urged to have their say on the new multi-million euro facility being earmarked for the same site and will be opened in 2026.

BY JOE O'MUIRCHEARTAIGH

Station owners SSE Thermal is organising a consultation process between now and early August on Tarbert Next Generation Power Station - these will be both online and in-person events where members of the public can make submissions on the proposed development.

A consultation room is being launched on Monday next, July 10, and close on August 2, while members of the public have been invited to attend either of the consultation evenings to learn more

about the proposed development at Tarbert and meet the Project Team.

These information evenings take place in Tarbert Community Centre on July 18 and in the Listowel Arms Hotel on July 19 when SSE Thermal engineers will outline the new station's remit to support the security of electrical power supply.

"The new station will support the continued expansion of Ireland's renewable generation capacity," said a spokesperson, "and would provide essential support to the electricity supply system at times



OPENING: The official opening of the ESB power generating station at Tarbert on 19th June 1970 by Taoiseach Jack Lynch. Most Rev. Dr Eamonn Casey, Bishop of Kerry, performed the blessing ceremony.

of peak demand and at times when other electricity generation sources are not sufficient to meet demand."

The closure of the station on Tarbert Island was announced in March, with a deadline of December set for when electricity production will end at the site, marking the end of an era that stretched back to the late 1960s.

Construction on the Tarbert station started in 1966 and when it was officially opened by Taoiseach Jack Lynch in 1970 it was the

27th generating station on the ESB system.

After the construction of two large units in 1977, it was the biggest power plant in the country and employed nearly 300 people when at peak production in the 1980s.

It was sold to Spanish company Endesa in 2008, while four years later it was acquired by Scottish Southern Energy (SSE).

In 2022, Tarbert was only producing 225MW, which was

enough to power 100,000 homes, but this was over 400MW short of its capacity 650MW, while two fires in the station over the last six months closed down operations altogether.

In late September, there was a temporary shutdown for four weeks after a fire in Unit 3 of the power plant, while last month 20 firefighters from Listowel and Foynes were called to put out another blaze that also crippled the station.

As part of the new development, SSE Thermal is proposing a new power station with a generating capacity of up to 350MW. The new station would run on 100% sustainable biofuel, Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO), with the potential to utilise hydrogen in the future.

Earlier this year, the proposed Tarbert Next Generation Power Station secured a 10-year capacity agreement in the T-4 Capacity Auction, to commence in 2026-27.

"Our intention is to apply for planning permission later in 2023 and the new station could be operational by 2026," a company spokesperson told *Kerry's Eye*.

NewsBriefs

Green light for Killorglin bank revamp

PLANS TO turn the former Bank of Ireland in Killorglin into a bar and restaurant, almost 21 months after the bank shut its doors in the town, have been given the green light to go ahead.

BY DAVID BYRNE

The Market Street bank was one of three branches in Kerry to close its doors in October 2021 as part of a nationwide restructuring of the bank's network, along with Castleisland and the service in Munster Technological University (MTU) in Tralee.

The Abbeyfeale Bank of Ireland branch, which was regularly used by customers on the Kerry side of the county border, also shut its doors.

Bank of Ireland continues to operate six branches in Kerry - Tralee, Killarney, Dingle, Listowel, Caherleevee and Kenmare.

Now, Dermot and Ruth O'Grady of Batchelors Investment Ltd have been granted planning permission by Kerry County Council to open a bar, restaurant, and kitchen on the ground floor of the former bank building, over a year-and-a-half after the bank closed.

The Milltown-based developers also plan to build three two-bed apartments overhead the bar and restaurant on the first and second floor, apartments which will be used as overnight guest accommodation and short-term stays. There is currently an existing residential unit above the ground floor of the building, which is a protected structure.

Granting planning permission on June 21, the Council found that the proposed development of the building would 'not seriously injure the amenities or depreciate the values of property in the vicinity', 'would be acceptable in terms of traffic safety and convenience', and 'would not therefore be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area'.

The plan for the ground floor bar, restaurant, and kitchen area includes an entrance lobby, a bar counter area, and a dining area. Upstairs, there are plans for two two-bedroom apartments, while on the top floor there will be another two-bed apartment.

Chair of Killorglin Chamber Alliance Shane McElroy said it is 'superb' to see the former bank building 'come back into life'.

"It is superb to see it come back into life, obviously not as a bank, but Killorglin desperately needs more accommodation and they will provide accommodation upstairs which I understand will be self-catering units which will be good for people who might be coming to the town for weddings or for an event," he told *Kerry's Eye*.

"And then you've the bar and restaurant downstairs - we are thrilled to see it coming back into use." Mr McElroy said Dermot O'Grady, who along with Ruth O'Grady is behind the plans, used to live in the bank building when his father was bank manager at Bank of Ireland.

The Chamber Alliance chair said it is great to see the building come back into use so quickly, especially with dereliction an issue in rural towns such as Killorglin, and when many former bank buildings lay idle around the county.

"The Bank of Ireland building itself is fantastic," he said. "It has great accommodation there already so to see it come back to life and to see another restaurant come into town can only be a bonus."

"I am really looking forward to seeing it developed."

Woman takes goods worth €17.76 from Aldi

- CCTV footage of items being placed in woman's bag
- Solicitor: "Ironically enough she's now working in retail."

A 37-YEAR-OLD Tralee woman 'placed items into her bag' and walked out of Aldi on John Joe Sheehy Road in Tralee without paying for them, the local court has heard.

Appearing before Judge David Waters at Tralee District Court, Maureen O'Shea, of a Rock Park Avenue, Tralee, was fined €400 after being found guilty of theft from Aldi on April 26 of last year.

After being told that this was O'Shea's third theft offence, Judge Waters warned her that if convicted of theft again it would be dealt with by way of sentence.

The court heard from Garda Inspector Gary Carroll that the items stolen came to a total value of €17.76.

Giving evidence, assistant store manager Adam Lazarowicz said he

was running the evening shift at the time. He said he checked the CCTV footage after a cashier noticed that O'Shea 'took items and placed them in a bag' before leaving the store. Mr Lazarowicz told the court: "I was sure there was a theft so I called gardai."

The assistant store manager said the CCTV footage, which was shown to the court, showed O'Shea placing items into her bag, and not her shopping basket.

Mr Lazarowicz said he subsequently checked the till receipt and O'Shea had paid for some items but not for the items she was seen putting into her bag.



Aldi store on John Joe Sheehy Road, Tralee

ting into her bag. Defending, solicitor Brendan Ahern said the offence was denied by his client.

He said: "She says she only took items that she paid for."

Judge Waters said there was, however, evidence that O'Shea put 'a number of items' into her bag and there was no evidence of her taking them out of the bag to pay for them.

The items were never recovered, the court heard.

Judge Waters said: "It is quite clear her bag is full, or at least half full, but she doesn't take any items out." Giving evidence, Garda John Burke

said there was evidence handed into the court of a receipt of what O'Shea paid for, and another receipt of what the store estimated she took without paying for.

O'Shea had paid for items to the value of €15.58 but took products such as beef, two beauty products, and a staple gun, the court heard.

Mr Ahern said his client told gardai in an interview that she had never taken anything from Aldi on John Joe Sheehy Road.

Garda Burke said he is certain it is O'Shea that is shown in the CCTV footage.

The court heard that O'Shea had 28

previous convictions, two of which were for theft.

Mr Ahern said O'Shea was entitled to contest the matter, but noted that she will 'obviously lose the benefit of a guilty plea' and any subsequent discount on a sentence.

Mr Ahern said his client had a drug addiction but has 'come out the other side of it and is now in full-time employment. He asked the judge to be as lenient as possible.

He said: "Ironically enough she is now someone who is working in the retail industry."

Judge Waters said he had to convict O'Shea 'given the evidence'. He fined her €400.

The judge said it would be the 'last time' he will deal with such a matter 'by way of a fine'.

He warned O'Shea: "By right you should get a suspended sentence given it is your third conviction (for theft), and you didn't plea, but if you commit theft a fourth time you will get a sentence."

Recognition was fixed in her own bond of €400 in case of an appeal.

Consultations over power station on Limerick/Kerry border begin



Shoplifting surges in Kerry with most blamed on juveniles

By SIMON BROUDER

KERRY'S top garda says that juvenile criminals are behind a massive surge in shoplifting offences across the county.

The claim was made by Kerry Garda Division Chief Superintendent Padraic Powell as he provided a breakdown of recent crime figures for the county at Tuesday morning's meeting of the Kerry Joint Policing Committee (JPC).

While most categories of crime were down – or had seen only minor increases – shoplifting offences had soared, a point highlighted by several members of the JPC.

He heard that there have been 439 incidents of thefts from shops in the first six months of the year.

This represented a jump of 79 per cent on the same period in 2019 – pre-pandemic – when just 245 such offences were recorded by gardai in the county.

Though shoplifting offences had increased dramatically burglaries had fallen by 47 per cent (from 110 to 58) and thefts from vehicles had



Kerry Garda Division Chief Superintendent Padraic Powell

fallen by 41 per cent (from 54 to 32) in the same period.

Chief Supt Powell said that the increase was concerning and said that much of it was associated with "juvenile" crime and it often involved younger people stealing small items

like cosmetics or food, sweets and soft drinks.

"A very large portion of this is juvenile crime and the items being stolen can range from a can of soft drink and a bag of crisps to electrical goods," he said.

Chief Supt Powell said that what was stolen or its value it had to be reported and recorded as a theft from a shop whether it was a cheap item of food or an expensive piece of electronics.

He added that gardai across the county are working with businesses to help them protect their stock – particularly more vulnerable items like cosmetics display cases – from thieves.

While Chief Supt Powell blamed youths for much of the surge in shoplifting he said organised criminal gangs are also involved.

He told the meeting that in recent days three members of an "organised shoplifting gang" had been arrested and are currently facing charges in relation to nine incidents of shoplifting in various locations across Kerry and Cork.

Crime down on the whole across the county since '19

By SIMON BROUDER

THE rates of most crimes have fallen across the county and are well below pre-pandemic levels.

A breakdown of crime in Kerry in the first half of the year was provided at Tuesday's meeting of the county's Joint Policing Committee by Kerry Garda Division Chief Superintendent Padraic Powell.

Chief Supt Powell said public order offences had declined by 35 per cent falling from 357 in the first six months of 2019 to 232 this year.

Incidents of public drunkenness and disorderly behaviour fell from 296 in 2019 to 240 in 2023, a fall of 19 per cent.

Drunk driving offences were also down significantly falling from 316 to 156 according to the figures provided

to the meeting. "slight increases" in

serious assaults with 71 incidents of 'assault causing harm' so far this year, up six per cent on the 67 such incidents recorded in 2019. 'Minor' assaults were down ten per cent, falling from 252 in 2019 to 226 this year.

One category of crime that saw a marked increase was drug dealing. In the first half of the year 53 people have been arrested for the possession of drugs for sale or supply. That represents a 20 per cent increase on the 2019 figure (44).

While drug dealing detections increased arrests for the use of drugs fell. This year 185 people have been found in possession of drugs for their own use compared with 290 in 2019, a fall of 36 per cent.

No details on moved gardai

THE Kerry Garda Division says it can't reveal details of deployments in south Kerry "for operational reasons".

The issue was raised at the Kerry Joint Policing Committee in a question submitted by Waterville based Cllr Norma Moriarty who had sought a breakdown of deployments in south Kerry.

Cllr Moriarty asked how many times, in the last six months, gardai stationed in Cahersiveen had been "redeployed" to Killarney or Killorglin "leaving south Kerry without adequate cover".

"This [alleged lack of cover] came into stark focus recently following a RTA requiring all emergency services to

respond," Cllr Moriarty said in a question submitted ahead of the meeting.

Cllr Moriarty had been unable to attend the meeting but her question and the response were read into the record.

In reply Garda management said that all deployments are managed using the 'Garda Safe' IT system and on occasion gardai are required for duty outside their assigned areas based on specific "policing requirements" at the time.

"Due to operational reasons, specific figures for the number of re-deployments outside South Kerry in the last six months is not available," said Garda management in their reply.

sse Thermal

Tarbert Next Generation Power Station

Public Consultation Events – In-Person and Online

We will be holding two in-person Public Consultation events:

- 18th July, Tarbert Community Centre, Tarbert, 5.30pm-9pm.
- 19th July, Listowel Arms Hotel, Listowel, 5.30pm-9pm.

You are invited to attend either of these events to meet the Project Team, learn more about the proposed development, ask any questions you may have and provide feedback. You are also welcome to learn about the project and provide your feedback through our online consultation room which can be accessed via the SSE Thermal website, by visiting:

www.ssethermal.com/flexible-generation/development/tarbert-next-generation/

Our online consultation room has been open since 10th July and closes on 2nd August.

SSE Thermal would like to introduce you to the Tarbert Next Generation Power Station. This project proposes to develop a new power station at the site of the existing power station at Tarbert Island, Tarbert, County Kerry, to protect security of supply and provide flexible backup to renewable generation while we transition to a greener future.

Contact Us

If you would like to hear further about the project or our consultation activities, or if you have any other queries please contact our **Community Liaison Officer, Conor Joy** on conor.joy@sse.com or 087 057 3409.

KNOCKADERRY CÚL CAMP



Siobhan Cahill and Andy Dowling with the U6s at Knockaderry GAA Cúl Camp in Knockaderry.



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AFTER COST-CUTTING PLAN AT FOLK THEATRE...

Siamsa Tíre 'lost its way 14 years ago' says Fr Pat Ahern



FOUNDER: Siamsa Tíre founder Fr Pat Ahern

■ **Move to sell Finuge's Teach Siamsa was 'like selling the family birthright'**
 ■ **Siamsa cuts all non-profit-making shows for rest of the season**

SIAMSA TÍRE founder Fr Pat Ahern believes recent problems at the National Folk Theatre in Tralee are rooted in events that happened 14 years ago when its 'Teach Siamsa' in Finuge was put on the market and the theatre 'lost its way'.

BY MAJELLA O'SULLIVAN

Fr Ahern subsequently learned that Siamsa Tíre had been re-registered with the Companies Registration Office in March 2009 - 34 years after its initial registration in January 1975 - and that the new Memorandum and Articles of Association made no reference to the 'Teach Siamsa concept', which he insists was central to Siamsa Tíre.

The former artistic director and producer at the National Folk Theatre said, in his view, these events were responsible for 'the present tragic situation in which the company finds itself'.

The documents are included in Fr Ahern's archive, which is housed at Kerry County Museum.

He told *Kerry's Eye*: "I probably would have left it in the archive, for posterity to find some day, but recent developments have changed my mind."

His comments follow the announcement by the management and board of Siamsa Tíre last month that it was suspending all non-profit-making productions from June 17 for the remainder of the summer season.

A joint statement said it

had taken the 'difficult' decision in order 'to secure the necessary funding to review the production offerings', citing a loss of momentum due to its closure during the Covid-19 pandemic, the 'changing face of the tourism market', which it said had been compounded by the rising cost of living.

However, Fr Ahern said he believed events from 14 years ago led to the present issue and to Siamsa Tíre 'losing its way' which he said had puzzled and angered many people in Kerry.

He said he had learned of Siamsa Tíre's plans to sell the Finuge Teach Siamsa to offset its financial difficulties at a meeting he was invited to attend in the Meadowlands Hotel in January 2008, 11 years after his retirement.

Fr Ahern said: "I went home with a heavy heart. Surely, I felt, there must be a complete misunderstanding at board level of the significance of the Teach Siamsa concept and of the key role the rural centre was designed to play in the Folk Theatre Plan - as clearly outlined in the Founding Document of 1972.

"To sell the Teach Siamsa



TEACH SIAMSA: Fr Pat Ahern, a founder of Siamsa, the National Folk Theatre, dances on a stage at the Teach Siamsa sod-turning ceremony in Finuge, 17th June 1973. Sitting on the left are: Bryan MacMahon, Tom O'Donnell (Minister for the Gaeltacht) and Eamon Casey, Bishop of Kerry.

would be like selling the family birthright, the cradle of Siamsa Tíre.

"By 2014, it was clear that, while it remained unsold, the Teach Siamsa at Finuge was not being used by the company for training purposes. It had, for the most part, remained locked up," he said.

"The same was true of the Teach Siamsa at Carraig, in the West Kerry Gaeltacht.

"Furthermore, the training classes for young talent had been discontinued at both rural centres and had been transferred to the Theatre in Tralee."

Fr Ahern said he discovered two documents existing at the Companies Registration Office, one registered on January 28, 1975 and a second registered on March 13, 2009.

He said: "When I read the 2009 document, my worst fears were confirmed. Siamsa Tíre had been

re-founded in 2009.

"The new document made no reference to the Tithe Siamsa."

He said that 'Siamsa Tíre', is now being used to denote an entity that it was never originally intended to be.

Efforts by Fr Ahern and others for the founding memorandum to be reinstated were unsuccessful.

A detailed submission, prepared by Fr Ahern and three friends, to the board in November 2014 outlined four proposals - to restore the original objectives of the original memorandum, the reinstatement of the two Tithe Siamsa, the inclusion on the board of members qualified to speak for the traditional arts, and the launch of a Siamsa Tíre digital archive.

He said he received a reply on June 15, 2015. "In effect none of our four requests had been granted," Fr Ahern said.



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