



Long-term vision required for Cathedral Quarter plan

BY KATE HEANEY

TONIGHT'S meeting to launch the Conservation Plan for Letterkenny Cathedral Quarter offers all of the residents of the town a valuable opportunity to have an input into their future urban environment. This is according to tonight's guest speaker and former town resident Colm Murray, Architecture Officer with The Heritage Council.

Mr Murray made the important point that while towns and counties have five year development plans drawn up by the local authority, the people of the town who intend to live there all their lives, need to look beyond a five year plan and at what type of town or village they want to live in. He called on everyone to put their shoulder to the wheel in an effort to see the plan for the Cathedral Quarter come to fruition.

The plan has been drawn up by Duncan McLaren **RIA** Accredited Conservation Architect Gradel from Moville.

Colm Murray is the son of Tony and Mary Murray from Convent Road.

Speaking to the Donegal News this week in advance of tonight's public meeting he paid tribute to Donan Harvey who has spearheaded this campaign to date and has been in contact with Mr Murray from the start.

"He is exactly the type of person with energy and commitment it needs to get it started, but people burn out if they don't have support. I can see why he is looking for people's support through tonight's meeting. Get people to put their shoulder to the wheel to make it work," he said.

Back in 1995 Mr Murray walked every street of the town and looked at every building for a nation-wide survey, figuring out how old the buildings were. Part of the plan being launched tonight is an update of that.

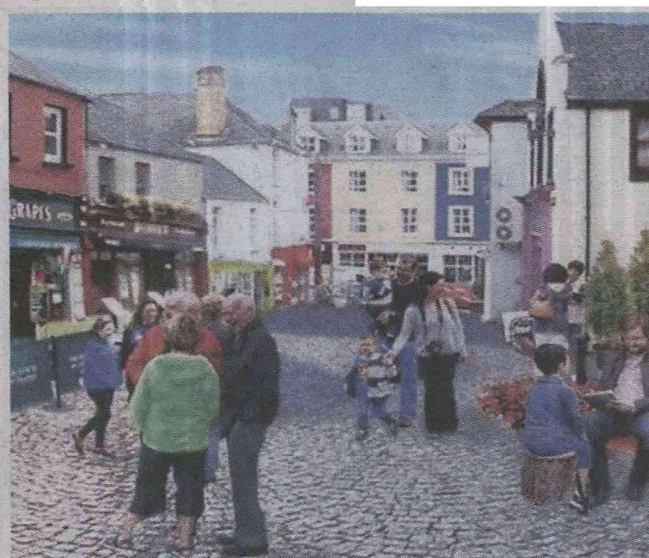
"People need to have a long-term vision for the quality of life they want and who is better to do that

than the people who live in the place. The Heritage Council have a network of older towns and connect to a network of historic towns to provide these types of supports for community led initiatives. Letterkenny could be included if there is strong enough interest and this can give them power in issues like planning and access," he added.

He quoted former Sec General of the Dept of Finance John Moran saying: "Every town should be trying to identify what is needed to get people to stay there, live there and spend their money there".

Mayor of Letterkenny MDC James Pat McDaid will officially launch the Letterkenny Cathedral Quarter Conservation Plan in Dillon's Hotel, tonight (Friday) from 7.30 - 8.30pm. The launch will include a presentation from Duncan McLaren from Dedalus Architecture and Highland Radio's Donal Kavanagh will act as MC for the event. As well as Colm Murray other guest speakers on the night include Eunan Quinn of Donegal County Council.

Colm Murray will officially open the new Cathedral Quarter Office on Church Lane tomorrow (Saturday), February 25 at 11.30am.



Artistic impression of the Church Lane repaved and pedestrianised.