

You wait over twenty years for a cinemaand then two come along at once!

But Roxboro plans shelved as Flix group make move

■ Paul Healy

There were dramatic developments in the campaign to see a cinema facility provided in Roscommon town in recent days.

Last Thursday a Mr. John Farrell signalled his intention to provide a cinema for Roscommon when he had a planning notice published in the Roscommon People. He indicated that he was seeking change of use of existing retail premises in Roxboro (to a cinema).

On Monday, in a statement issued to local press, local auctioneer John Earley confirmed that agreement has been reached to provide a new state-of-the-art six digital screen multiplex cinema and leisure centre at Centre Point retail park, Circular Road, Roscommon.

On Tuesday, Mr. Farrell again contacted the Roscommon People, this time with a Letter to the Editor (see page 24) in which he expresses frustration at how the saga has evolved.

In a statement issued to the Roscommon People on Wednesday (see below), the Roscommon Cinema Committee said that Mr. Farrell has now decided to "bow out gracefully" and will not be proceeding with his own cinema plans.

CLlr. Orla Leyden described

the confirmation of a €6m multiplex cinema for Roscommon Town as a really positive development for the town and county.

John Earley of Property Partners Earley said, "We have planning permission on site for a cinema development and fit out work will commence over the coming months with a completion date of summer this year.

"It further highlights the commercial strength of Roscommon town and is a further step in the commercial development of one of the region leading market towns," said Mr. Earley.

"I am delighted to be able to announce such a welcomed and much-needed resource for Roscommon town. The Flix cinema and leisure group will provide Roscommon with one of the finest leisure facilities in the country and we are more than happy to be their town of choice. I believe that this development signals the strength of Roscommon town as a commercial centre and note that there has been a significant increase in the level of activity in the property market in the region within the past three months".

Bucking the doom and gloom of current times, Flix Cinema & Leisure plan to de-



velop up to ten locations nationwide over the next couple of years. Primarily the company provides an all-inclusive entertainment destination including Cinema, kids mega soft play areas, skywalks, virtual reality games, arcade games, climbing walls, kids party areas including over 10 unique and exciting party options, virtual golf, snooker and pool, quasar laser and paintball.

It is estimated that the total auditoria size will take up circa

30 percent of the total footprint, consisting of state-of-the-art full digital and 3D projection and Dolby EX Digital full surround sound, stadium style

armchair seating and wall-to-wall, floor-to-ceiling modern screens. The group doesn't plan to build a box office, but instead promote a ticket-at-

any-till format, which will result in a larger foyer space.

It is envisaged that Flix will continue its relationship with key suppliers in Roscommon, partnering with Ben and Jerry's, Coca-Cola and Starbucks. On the leisure side of the operation the company envisage attractions ranging from a mega soft play kids zone with over-ten party options. The arcade area will have 100s of games spread across the entire centre from the most modern interactive virtual units to the classic Pacman. It is envisaged that the centre will also house Ireland's largest indoor virtual golf facility, allowing the novice an opportunity to learn in a relaxed setting while enabling the "pro" to challenge themselves against the best courses in the world.

It is envisaged that the Roscommon Flix site will cost circa €6 million creating 40 new jobs, rising to 60 within two years. All positions will be customer-focused with an emphasis on understanding the community in which the cinema operates.

Committee delighted with multi-screen cinema plans

News that a multi-screen cinema is on its way to Roscommon was welcomed this week by members of the newly-formed Roscommon Cinema Committee. In fact, so successful was the new Committee that it now plans the perfect happy ending, to ride off into the sunset having completed the task it set out to do!

"We wish to acknowledge the valiant effort made by the Roxboro business duo to bring a cinema to Roscommon. In the light of recent events, they have decided to bow out gracefully and congratulate the proposal made by Dublin business man Daren Corcoran to bring his multi-screen extravaganza to our town.

"Although the contact between our committee and the business venture has been brief, the facebook page has been inundated with good will messages and tremendous excitement about this project. The town is alive with anticipation of a six-screen cinema on their doorstep. It is more than we dreamed of and far exceeds the wishes and hopes of the people that signed up to this campaign.

"To know from the report on Tuesday that we are in store for a "hub of entertainment" will make us the envy of other counties. The young people who have followed the campaign from the start are overcome and overjoyed at the prospect of quasar, laser and paint balling facilities as well as the virtual re-

ality games, not to mention Ireland's largest indoor virtual golf. Pool and snooker fans are in for a treat whilst there will be climbing walls and sky walking....a magical fun-filled family entertainment centre with something for all ages.

"It is no more than the great people of Roscommon deserve and finally we can say there is something amazing to look forward to, a facility that will put us back on the map. There are many thank yous to be said on our behalf and the perfect forum for that is our page, "Roscommon have no cinema, who want's one in the town?"

"It is no surprise really that this would happen, someone has seen the potential in our fine town and they are going ahead with the plans to bring us this wealth of entertainment by the summer. To know that it will create 40 fulltime jobs rising to 60 within two years is a massive boost to our local economy.

"This is our final release because the job is done, our last hurrah will be at Roscommon's Easter parade. A celebration of the work and effort made by founder Robert Dwyer and long time collaborator Paul Kane.

"In true cinematic fashion we plan to ride off into the sunset. Life truly is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're going to get. Thank you all for getting behind us, we look forward to seeing you all for a night out at Roscommon Cinema!"



Bachelor of Arts (Ordinary) in Art and Design Part-time at GMIT Castlebar Campus

Course overview

This course provides a programme of study in painting for those who cannot attend college on a full-time basis. The student is introduced to the visual language, materials and concepts of art practice. The programme is delivered over six years on a part-time basis. Classes take place every Wednesday from 9.30am-4.00pm.

Course content

Painting (using oil based and water based paints), History of Art Theory.

How to apply

Applicants interested in the September 2010 programme are required to complete a Direct Mature Application Form. This form is available from

The Lifelong Learning office in GMIT Castlebar, Westport Road, Castlebar (Tel 094-9025700).

The Direct Mature Application Form is also available on the GMIT website (www.gmit.ie) under The Admissions Office.

Completed application forms should be returned to: The Lifelong Learning Office, GMIT, Westport Road, Castlebar, Co. Mayo on or before **April 30, 2010**. Applicants will be invited for an interview and are assessed on their portfolio. The interviews will take place in early June.

Course Fee

€1,000 per annum (Tuition fee €950 plus €50 materials)

Each course is offered on the basis of an adequate number of enrolments and the Institute reserves the right to cancel any course with insufficient enrolments.

