



LIMERICK CIVIC TRUST

IMPROVEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Christine Cushway
Property & Estates Manager
Cotswold & West Oxfordshire District Council

11th April 2017

Dear Christine

Thank you for meeting with Hiram and I on our recent visit to your very beautiful city of Cirencester.

The Limerick Civic Trust as outlined during our visit is very keen that the "Bannatyne Stairs" be preserved and presented to the public as a touching tribute to this great family in light of their achievements and their sacrifices.

As to why the Limerick Civic Trust should be considered a good home for such items of historic value, it may be worth noting that the Trust is a registered charity (CHY 6717) and all of its assets are held under its constitution on behalf of the public. The Trust cannot sell any of its assets and should the Trust fail then all the properties, assets and objects of the Trust will be taken over by the Office of Public Works and remain in public ownership for future generations. Previously the Trust became custodians of the "Carroll Collection". This is a collection of five generations of an Irish family recently domiciled in England who over six generations achieved the highest military and civic awards for their services. The care and effort provided to the preservation and presentation of this collection can be clearly seen with a visit to the Bishop's Palace in Limerick or online at www.limerickcivictrust.ie.

The Trust has only recently negotiated the transfer of care for the Armstrong Collection, an Anglo Irish family's artefacts similar to that of the Carrolls. The Armstrongs now reside in South Africa.

It is an ambition of the Limerick Civic Trust to restore the stairs and present it within the confines of Saint Munchins Church on Church Street, Kings Island, Limerick. The churchyard at St Munchins contains a number of Bannatyne graves and monuments and is considered the oldest graveyard in the city.

In outlining our case to become the custodians of this stairs, I have enclosed a copy of our anniversary book to highlight a number of key projects of the Trust and I have put together the attached notes lending weight to our argument but in brief the main points are as follows:

1. The Bannatyne Family are one of the leading merchant families of Limerick, leaving several major landmarks on the city landscape. (See appendix 1)

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2. The Bannatyne family crypt and a number of other Bannatyne graves are attached to the churchyard of Saint Munchins where we plan to install the stairs. (See appendix 2)
3. The home of Alexander Bannatyne was Grange Castle Connell, a fishing village on the River Shannon on the edge of Limerick City. (See appendix 3)
4. The Bannatyne name for this line of the family died out with the passing of Alexander and Edgar Bannatyne. Their sisters married and moved away from the locality but the Bannatyne name still survives. Emblazoned on buildings and monuments it is still embedded in the local history, the family mills and the Limerick Chamber of Commerce. (see appendix 4)
5. In pursuit of our goal the Limerick Civic Trust has elicited the support of a number of parties –
Limerick City & County Council
The Mayors of Limerick
The Royal British Legion
Mrs June O'Carroll (of Andover)
The Earl and Countess of Limerick (Sussex)
Bishops of Limerick Right Rev Kenneth Kearon (Anglican Communion) and Right Rev Brendan Leahy (RC)
Keith Wood Lions Rugby
Rose Hynes Chair of Shannon Group plc.
We have also received written support from descendants of the Bannatyne. (See appendix 5)

I hope the above is helpful in assisting you in making a decision on this matter and I look forward to hearing from you in the near future. Should you, your colleagues or any of the elected members wish to visit and review our operations in Limerick I would be delighted to host them.

Yours sincerely

David O'Brien
CEO

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