

Crannagh top the lot

BY ALASTAIR MACMANUS

Cavan business is being recognised once again with Belturbet based company Crannagh & Co winning the prestigious National Enterprise Award.

The news came as a shock, as the company was only formed in 2006 and managed to beat off some stiff competition from highly regarded rivals, Seftec LTD from West Cork and Emergent Events from Dublin City.

This is the tenth annual National Enterprise Awards ceremony and is considered the largest competition of its kind for small business owners in Ireland.

Crannagh & Co. specialise in providing international trade and business services to multinational corporations around the globe, including 17 of the top Fortune 500 companies, as well as 12 of the 100 largest private companies in the world.

With a staff of just seven, the company has gone from strength to strength since its formation.

Founders of the company Michelle Lynch and sister-in-law Carol Lynch were delighted with the news.

Michelle is proud of all the hard work put in by the staff and firmly believes Crannagh would not have even been considered for the award had it not been for them.

"This is really a team award as they've really given their all since we started.

"Because we work in different



Michelle and Carol Lynch at Dublin Castle with Michael P. Kelly of the Enterprise Boards. Photo. Mark Stedman/Photocall Ireland.

time zones, our staff work late nights and early mornings to meet the urgent demands of our clients. I'm so proud of everyone.

"It's extraordinary that we won, but there was little time to celebrate as we had to work first thing in the morning!"

Michael P. Kelly, Chairperson of the Enterprise Promotions Committee with the County and City Enterprise Boards, felt Crannagh and Co fully deserved its award.

"The independent judging panel were most impressed with Crannagh & Co's ability to identify a niche market at home and abroad," he said.

Meanwhile another Cavan business has been shortlisted for a FBD Crest Retail Excel-

lence award.

Mr James for Men, located on Main Street in Cavan Town, is one of eight finalists in the Best Large Store Eastern Region category.

The store survived a tough elimination process, having started as just one of 479 nominations, but is now tipped as one of the favourites to win the highly coveted award.

Michael McCarron, the store's proprietor, says their aim is to "create an enjoyable, modern shopping experience in provincial Ireland without the stress of city shopping."

The twelfth annual FBD CREST Awards Ceremony takes place on 17 November in Dromoland Castle, Co Clare and will be hosted by Miriam O'Callaghan.

Belturbet GAA building may sell as local community facility

BY ALASTAIR MACMANUS

The public meeting held in Belturbet on Tuesday evening to discuss the future of a historic parochial house has been described by local resident Kevin McCann as 'productive'.

Concerned residents of Belturbet, local councillors and members of Rory O'Moore's GAA club, who currently own the house and its surrounding buildings, were among the sixty or so in attendance.

Following the frank and open discussions, Kevin McCann, current resident of the house and chair of Tuesday's meeting, believes the distance between the two camps has shortened considerably.

The dispute revolves around the future of a nineteenth-century house and its surrounding buildings. O'Moore's GAA club first purchased the buildings and surrounding land, which is adjacent to its pitch, with the intention to transform the land into a training field.

Now, five years on, the club intends to sell on a property that is of no use to it and which is costing it money to maintain.

A representative of the club, who attended the meeting, said the club had to pay mortgage instalments of €2,800 a month yet only received €400 a month in rent.

In order to maximise the value of the site, the club sought planning permission to build 16 apartments on the land, a decision that



Resident Kevin McCann addresses the meeting.

has caused concern amongst some Belturbet residents.

Kevin McCann feels the historic value of the house is too great for it to be demolished for apartments.

"Everyone was gutted when the old convent was demolished and didn't realise what they had until they lost it.

"I feel this situation is the same and something has to be done before it is too late."

The planning advertisement has been in the press for five weeks now and after next Tuesday the GAA will be free to place the property on the market.

A GAA representative, who

did not wish to be named, revealed that, "if the community feel so strongly on the issue, we are willing to sell the property back to them at market value."

The property is valued at around €450,000 but if sold to a property developer it could sell for almost double that amount.


The representative encouraged residents to move quickly, as the property will otherwise go on the market in the new year.

"If a strong enough interest was shown by the community then we would hold back from placing the property on the open market," he concluded.



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