

child over another



WITH FRIENDS IN HIGHER PLACES'

in @CopperFaceJacks anyways #garthgate #cowboyhatforsale

Tara Flynn
"If Garth never comes/ Will he know how much you love him?" #garthgate

Paul
No sympathy either for the Dublin hoteliers who absolutely fleeced people for one night's accomm. #GarthBrooks #garthbrookscrokepark

Irish Contrarian
I can see why Ruari Quinn stood down. He knew what was coming and the violent revolution that would follow. #Garthgate #GarthBrooks

Chris Jones
The phrase "only three Garth Brooks concerts will be permitted" is the greatest thing I've read so far today.

Joe O'Shea
Once again, Ireland has failed a persecuted, misunderstood minority. Garth Brooks fans, We Stand Behind You #JusticeForGarth

Kerry Biofuels
Only In Ireland, can you book a celebrity, a venue and sell 400k tickets without even having a license for the shows #Garthgate - bonkers!

Colm Tobin
I picked a bad day to invest all my savings in 50,000 pink cowboy hats.

Anthony Riordan
Fans are upset over #GarthBrooks cancellations. If only there was a genre of music that dealt with loss & despair that they could listen to

Gerard Shannon
I'd fear for the Croke Park residents if all #GarthBrooks gigs were cancelled. Could make the LA Riots look like an episode of Teletubbies.

Anwen Le Cras
@aikenpromotions decision on remaining 3 shows plz sooner rather than later. Some of us travelling from outside Ireland.

Emily Kelly
Devastated for Nathan Carter that Monday and Tuesday are cancelled #GarthBrooks

Karl Brophy
In fairness, the #GarthBrooks concerts were Dublin's only chance to get some of property tax subsidy it is paying the rest of country back

Eoghan Holland
What's the odds they just roll out the first few Garth Brooks shows and then have a lock in?

back,' he said. He added: 'You got to remember that we first met Garth Brooks and his management way back in December, we talked about doing two shows. He did 140,000 tickets 17 years ago so we thought he would do roughly the same. We went for roughly the same, we were going for 160,000 tickets. It became a runaway train, this is a once in a lifetime thing, it will never happen again.

"The production that he's putting in to this thing... We are putting 22 trucks just into the Cusack Stand with lighting and sound effects to create this one-off show. All the customised pieces of video equipment that he's bringing in, we can't strip

that down and move to another venue.' Officially, the GAA was remaining tight-lipped about the matter, a short statement it released said it would make no further comment before Monday.

Dublin City Council gave three reasons for granting of permission for just three out of the five planned concerts.

It said firstly it would not be appropriate to have five consecutive concerts because of the scale, magnitude and number of the concerts.

In a letter to Aiken Promotions, executive manager Jim Keoghan said it was 'unprecedented' for Croke Park to hold three of the five con-

secutive concerts on weekday nights. The second reason given was that three consecutive concerts (by One Direction) have already taken place in Croke Park from May 23 to 25.

The third reason was the 'unacceptable level of disruption to the lives or livelihoods of residents and

businesses near Croke Park. Mr Keoghan cited concert related noise, access restrictions, traffic disruption, illegal parking and potential antisocial behaviour over an unprecedented and prolonged period.

He added that it was also concerned with the precedent that

By Neil Michael
Chief Reporter

HE is the unelected apparatchik who has become the bête noire of Dublin motorists, business owners... and now country music fans.

Even before Owen Keegan landed the €189,301 job of Dublin City Manager in July last year, he had infuriated many.

As the city council's traffic boss in the Nineties, he earned the nickname 'traffic tsar' after he introduced clamping to the capital.

Then, as head of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, he brought his one-man war against car owners to Dún Laoghaire, where 100 shops in the once-thriving town now lie vacant.

This dereliction is all down to the draconian parking restrictions brought in under Keegan's reign, local shop owners claim.

His tough stance on parking led to the Dublin suburb having the most expensive parking charges in Ireland for a town of its size. Thanks to the measure, it became even more expensive to park a car in Dún Laoghaire than parking a car in Cork or Belfast.

But while he introduced the so-called Denver Boot to South Dublin's leafiest suburbs, there was little danger of him ever getting clamped himself.

That's because he used to

He introduced clamping

cycle to his office in the council headquarters on Dún Laoghaire seafront.

There were also complaints after he spent almost €400,000 on remodelling a roundabout on Killiney Road that, according to locals, didn't need a revamp.

His officials first spent €275,000 building a cycle lane around the perimeter of the roundabout, but after a spate of accidents and complaints, they eventually went back to the drawing board - only to spend another €155,000 removing the cycle lane.

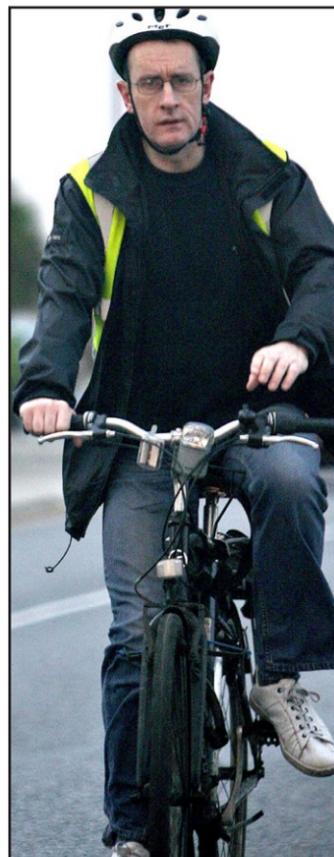
Then there's the library which was built on the Dún Laoghaire seafront.

The hideous new €36million library - 125ft modern piece of architecture which now dominates the town's scenic waterfront - is unaffectionately dubbed either the Titanic or Keegan's Folly.

Back in Dublin City Council last year after former boss John Tierney left to take charge Irish Water, he is again ruffling feathers.

Last month he was in the news over plans to overhaul the city's North Quays to make way for a

BUSINESSES, DRIVERS AND MUSIC FANS... KEEGAN HAS IRKED THEM ALL



Controversial: Owen Keegan

two-way cycle track. The proposal by Keegan, a keen cyclist, would significantly cut the number of cars able to pass through an already congested city traffic corridor.

And he hopes it will contribute to the goal of increasing the

number of bike journeys in Dublin by 4 per cent by 2020.

If successful, the radical move would introduce a two-way cycle 'highway', meaning the closure of a car lane, leaving only a bus lane and one remaining through-way for private motorists.

In defence of the Green Party-backed plans, he told the Irish Times: 'It is not something that we have to apologise for. Cycling has to be for the unbrave as well.'

Elsewhere, in January, Keegan admitted to TDs that nearly €30million of the €100million spent by local authorities on the Dublin Waste to Energy Poolbeg incinerator project went to consultants. Asked when building would start on the project, Keegan - who once attended a €10,000 course in Harvard at the taxpayer's expense - said he had no idea.

'This thing should have gone out to procurement again, probably twice, it didn't and, hands up, that was wrong and all I can do is say I have now put arrangements in place to end that expenditure,' he said at the time.

For a man whose perceived intransigence over Garth Brooks has been a hallmark of the affair, observers should be reminded of his backing of a plan to demolish ESB's HQ along Dublin's Georgian Mile.

ESB wants to overturn a planning policy that calls for the reinstatement of the original facades of 16 Georgian houses on Fitzwilliam Street Lower, which were demolished in 1965 and replaced by modern offices.

But in a report to councillors in January, Keegan said the policy was 'excessively rigid'.

would be created if five consecutive concerts in a row of this scale were licenced.

The Lord Mayor of Dublin Christy Burke blamed Aiken Promotions for the debacle. He said they should have gone to the Dublin city manager when they decided to run five instead of three concerts. He added the decision had been made by Mr Keegan who he said had taken in to account all of the wishes of residents, local business and those in the area.

Iamród Éireann said it would fully refund any customers unable to travel because of the cancelled concerts.

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