

Annie May rolling out red carpet for 'Mr Grey'

By Orla Hearn

As preparations continue for the filming of the major movie, *Wild Mountain Thyme*, in the Ballina area in the coming weeks, local councillor Annie May Reape is keen to roll out the red carpet for its A-list lead man, Jamie Dornan.

Ballina Municipal District councillors met on Wednesday last where Cllr Reape wondered whether the *Fifty Shades of Grey* star should be afforded a civic reception.

Cllr John O'Hara had raised the issue of the movie, highlighting that it could see the Ballina area featured on cinema screens all over the world as the setting for the film adaptation of the Broadway stage play, *Outside Mullingar* by the Oscar and Tony Award-winner John Patrick Shanley.

Cllr O'Hara was reminiscent of the most tenacious *Hollywood Reporter* hack, as he revealed in a hush-hush fashion that properties in the



Jamie Dornan at a pre-Oscars event in 2018. Cllr Annie May Reape thinks he should be afforded a civic reception while shooting his new movie, 'Wild Mountain Thyme', in Ballina.

Cloonkee and Cloonagh areas and on the Belmullet side of Crossmolina were set to be used as locations for the film, which also stars Emily Blunt, Jon Hamm and Christopher Walken.

"It's called *Wild Mountain Thyme* and it's about farmers arguing over land," Cllr O'Hara confided, remarking that the production will put the Ballina Municipal Dis-

trict on the map. He thanked Mayo Co Council for its role in realising such a dream development for the area.

"A lot of them [cast and crew] will be staying here in Ballina.

"We had 1,300 people attend the open casting [for extras] here so that shows you the interest that's in it."

"Could we give a civic reception to Jamie Dor-

nan?" Cllr Reape mused — her affinities as a fan clearly rumbled when council engineer, Teresa Durkan, teased that Emily Blunt should also be afforded the honour:

"Well, Jamie anyway," Cllr Reape replied, perhaps preoccupied with daydreams of getting tangled up in the Catherin's chain of office with the Hollywood heartthrob.

Men ended up in a legal stew after killing protected hares

Five men who hunted and killed three protected wild mountain hares in countryside in South Mayo have been directed to make a donation to an animal welfare charity.

Eric Ward, 46 Clareville, Claremorris; James Reilly, 94 Cois na hAhhainn, Tuam; Martin Ward, 45 Gilmartin Road, Tuam; Patrick Sweeney, 35 Woodfield, Tuam and Eoin Ward, 143 Woodfield, Tuam, pleaded guilty at last week's sitting of Castlebar District Court to possessing a protected wild animal.

John Higgins, who is employed as a ranger with the National Parks

and Wildlife Service, told the court that on January 18 last he stopped a Volkswagen Polo being driven by James Reilly at Killoire Lower, Kilmaine.

The other four defendants were passengers in the vehicle.

Mr Higgins inspected the car and found three dead wild Irish mountain hares on the floor behind the passenger seat.

In reply to questions from Judge Deirdre Gearty, Mr Higgins said a licence is required to hunt these animals.

Open season for shooting the animals is between September and February but the accused

were hunting the animals with dogs.

Solicitor Cathy McDarby said the animals can be hunted with beagle or harrier dogs if hunters have the proper licence.

The five defendants had hunted for rabbits in the past and didn't know these hares were protected species.

The dead animals would have been used to make stews.

Judge Gearty directed the defendants pay €200 each to the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

If the donations are made, the charges will be struck out.

More social housing for Ballina district

A proposed development of 50 local authority houses in the Foxford Road area of Ballina will be advertised for public consultation in the near future, it has been confirmed.

Ballina Municipal District councillors were advised at a meeting last Wednesday that approval has been granted to seek planning permission for the planned estate under

Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001.

It is proposed to construct the development in the vicinity of the Rehins Fort estate.

Meanwhile, councillors have approved of the development of three new council houses in the village of Moygownagh in accordance with Part 8 of the 2001 planning legislation.

Cllr Annie May Reape formally proposed that the development proceed, noting that her colleague Cllr Michael Loftus would have done so were he not unavoidably absent.

It was agreed that the development would be a great boost for the community of Moygownagh and should be followed by the construction of further houses.

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Man using cannabis was 'in a bad place'

A man found in possession of a small quantity of cannabis had been ordered to make a donation to charity.

Michal Stecki, 21 of 33 Lavey Manor, Charlestown pleaded guilty at Castlebar District Court to a charge of possession of illegal drugs.

Sgt Margaret O'Connor told the court that Gda Kieran Naughton received confidential information on November 7 last that a woman was in possession of drugs at a house at Hawthorn Village, Saleen, Castlebar.

Stecki was visiting the house and was found in possession of cannabis valued at €25.20.

The defendant has no previous convictions.

Solicitor Tom Walsh said Stecki had been in a bad place at the time.

Having spent some time in his native Poland, he had returned to Ireland and is in his second year in college.

Judge Deirdre Gearty said she would strike out the charge if Stecki donates €250 to St Anne's Burns Unit at Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin.