

Tramore's Grand Hotel for sale



The closure of the Grand Hotel was described as “devastating” by Cllr Maxine Keoghan.

Given the uplift in the hotel trade in past year, the outlook may be bright for a sale.

We understand there had been some staff meetings about reopening and there was a plan to re-open in late February, but after careful consideration the decision was taken within the past week to seek a buyer.

There will be market interest in such a long established hotel which has traded her for over 200 years.

It was previously known as the Great Hotel and was the largest building in the town.

In the mid-80s, the hotel closed, before being bought by the Treacy family who went on to run it very successfully.

In the last few years they had created a vibrant music scene with many top bands playing there.

The hotel also did well with UK based coaches brining English and American visitors around Ireland with Tramore as a stop off point.

The hotel did especially well during race week in August and during the Christmas and summer vacations as many young people who were away found it a great meeting place on their return from other parts of Ireland or abroad.

There is much goodwill in the town towards the hotel and all hope that a new buyer can be found.

There are two other hotels in the town not operating at present - the Hi B on Strand Street is up for sale as is the Cul Tra.

The existing hotels trading in the town at present are the Majestic, O'Sheas Hotel on Strand St. and the newly bought Sands Hotel on Strand Road.

Local Councillor Maxine Keoghan said she was greatly saddened to hear that the doors of the Grand Hotel had closed.

"The closure is devastating for the town of Tramore not only for the owners and employees but for the overall town aesthetic which is also the heart of Tramore's Victorian past.

"The prominence of the Grand Hotel ensures the building is visible from many angles of the town centre and indeed the lower part of the town including the beach and promenade.

"The Grand Hotel is not only the oldest hotel in Tramore but is one of Tramore's oldest structures which was built in the 18th Century by Bartholomew Rivers.

"Throughout the years the Grand Hotel was noted for its style and ambience with a guest list that included church dignitaries and prominent political and artistic figures.

"Sir John Lavery and his wife remained in the hotel for a number of months in the early 1920s while he worked on producing a number of paintings in the town."

Cllr Keoghan added: "Tramore town needs a comprehensive plan which recognises the many assets the town has and the Grand Hotel must be a part of that plan.

"With a number of derelict buildings in the town and with the site of the Railway Station in the hands of NAMA it is not difficult to see that a concerted and united effort is required by all of Tramore's stake holders.

"I am optimistic the new amalgamation of Tramore and Waterford City will be of benefit to the people and businesses of Tramore.

"Every effort must be made to ensure the doors of the Grand Hotel do not remain closed permanently.

"Although considerable investment is required in the hotel, its central location, size and many original features may attract those who will see the sale of the Grand Hotel as an opportunity.

"I sincerely hope the Grand Hotel will reopen sooner rather than later and not just for the people who find themselves unemployed but for the sake of Tramore town and its people."

Kieran Walsh.