



Johnston Court is a landmark for shoppers

By Margaret O'Brien

It took almost seven years for Sligo developers Ray and Eileen Monahan to complete Johnston Court Shopping Centre in the heart of Sligo. The landmark 10,220 square metre mall opened its doors last October. Johnston Court, which links O'Connell Street to Wine Street car park, houses a range of leading international and domestic brands.

"We are close to capacity and are currently in on-going negotiations with a number of high street outlets that are interested in filling the small number of units that remain," said Jon Dunt, manager of the centre.

Among its outlets are Tommy Hilfiger, Vila, Exit, Jack & Jones, Pamela Scott, Elvery's, Zavvi, the Bag Shop, L-bees Shoes, Claire's Accessories, H Samuel and Mullaney's.

Also on board are Shoe Rack, the Sony Centre, Costa Coffee, Jump Juice, Vodafone, 3, Peter Marks and Hargadons.

The building itself is a magnificent structure. The centrepiece of the mall, a fine-looking winding staircase, leads to a first and second floor coffee shop which overlooks O'Connell Street. The mall is covered with an elaborate glazed roof, which, together with double height entrances, allows for maximum natural light penetration.

The natural light is complemented by internal blue and white lighting and the mall is floored and decorated throughout with Jura Limestone. Douglas Wallace Architects sympathetically married the building's original frontage, which faces onto O'Connell Street, with a galleria-style pedestrian mall leading onto

the Wine Street car park.

Johnston Court is Ray and Eileen Monahan's first major retail development – they have already completed office and commercial developments in Sligo and Dublin – and it represents the first stage of a master plan for Sligo town created by Sligo Borough Council.

The €70 million development has already created hundreds of jobs and provided a much needed boost to shopping in the city centre, re-establishing O'Connell Street as the premier retail street in Sligo.

The new mall provides for leisurely shopping in the city centre, with easy access to and from shopping areas in adjoining streets.

"As a designated gateway city under the National Spatial Plan, Sligo desperately needed a retail centre of Johnston Court's calibre to ignite the regeneration of the city centre," said Dunt.

Johnston Court has a substantial basement service area in excess of 2,000 square metres, which is intended to service not only the retailers in Johnston Court, but also the adjoining Tesco store and other retailers in the area.

Over 1,000 parking spaces will be provided in the adjoining Wine Street car park, when redeveloped in accordance with the borough council's centre block master plan.

Publication: Sunday Business Post Special Supplement

Date: Sunday, July 6, 2008

Page: 5

Extract: 2 of 2

Circulation: 56,522

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Headline: Johnston Court is a landmark for shoppers



**The Johnston
Court Shopping
Centre is a
major draw in
the region**

FRANK COURTNEY