

YOUGHAL BUILDING A NEW FUTURE WHILE RESPECTING HISTORIC SITES

**Redbarn Construction Ltd plan to breathe new life into
former Loreto convent and Seafield Textiles plant**

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Figure 1 Loreto Convent former all-girls school

Redbarn Construction Ltd is an Irish property development company based in Cork and Kildare, who have plans to renovate former Loreto Convent in Youghal into luxurious apartments, while also restoring the former Seafield Textiles plant for commercial use.

The convent operated as a secondary boarding school run by the Loreto order from the mid 1800's with housing facilities provided for the nuns and the students. It closed in 2006 and was left derelict despite several attempts to restore it to its former glory.

Redbarn Construction Ltd purchased the abandoned property for a guide price of €900,000 and they immediately invested €6 million into the historic building. The company are planning to restore the former school building and build 40 new exclusive apartments. Nick Eagles, Redbarn Construction Director, said there are also potential plans for additional houses on the site, "A couple of separate units at the upper end, with access from the Golf Links Rd, may also be considered." There is a plan to have a range of different apartments, some two story, and to construct a small coffee/news agent shop where an old small cottage is located near the entrance.

Redbarn Construction own many properties throughout the quaint, seaside town of Youghal. They recently invested in the old Seafeld Textiles factory located next to the popular Perks Entertainment Centre. They are planning to knock down the former plant to construct twenty six detached and seven terraced houses and other commercial buildings.

In 2017, Redbarn bought one of the towns most loved buildings, The Regal Cinema. The cinema first opened up in 1914 and was greatly loved. Unfortunately, in 1935, the cinema burned down and had to be knocked down. Not too long later it reopened for business until the Hurst family sadly decided to close its doors for good during the recession in 2010.



It was purchased by the present owners, Redbarn Cinema, in 2017 and they spent a year refurbishing it and rebuilding it, and it reopened in July 2018. Not only did they re-open a much loved cinema but they are planning to construct more much needed homes in the area.

David O'Rourke, one of the co-founders of Redbarn Construction Ltd, who also has connections to Youghal, and his wife were driving passed the closed down building and his wife suggested that he should buy the property and "do something special with it." So he did. Their original idea was to buy it, fix it up and sell it again. They began construction and soon came to realize how much the people of Youghal appreciated the cinema and the old memories it holds.

Redbarn Construction Ltd have certainly rekindled a spark in one of the oldest towns in Ireland with the exciting new restorations and buildings breathing fresh life into the medieval town.

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