

# Des Rushe

## Protection of our heritage

AS a matter of basic principle, Dublin County Council must take one or other of two courses in relation to the partial demolition of Allenton House at Old Bawn, near Tallaght, Co. Dublin. It must explain why, as alleged, it issued two conflicting orders concerning the building, or else, it must institute legal proceedings. No other course is credible, or possible.

Allenton House is — or at least was — one of the oldest houses in the Dublin area, a country mansion built in the 1720s. The County Council has officially listed it as a protected building; yet on New Year's Eve, a JCB machine moved in and reduced its front facade to a heap of rubble.

Why this sneaky action was taken during a holiday period raises odorous suspicions, but the owner of the property claims that the County Council had issued a demolition order on December 16. If this is true, An Taisce, Tallaght Historical Society and the public at large are entitled to an explanation as to why such an order was made in respect of a protected building.