

# House-hunters take to the streets

It was a housing queue with a difference, as house-hunters braved the cold for up to 24 hours to buy the home of their dreams.

Up to 30 prospective house buyers slept in the street outside Sullivan Estate Agents in Laurence Street, Drogheda to buy one of the 14 houses for sale in the new 120-house Shrewsbury Manor estate.

In an effort to beat spiraling house prices, the buyers were determined to get in early for the new homes as the development's next phase could be up to £6,000 dearer.

Auctioneer Fintan Sullivan, who supplied hot drinks throughout the night, said that the Drogheda property market was only now catching up with the Dublin property boom.

"It's the first time we've seen this in Drogheda. It's got a lot to do with the poor

supply of middle market property in Dublin."

Teresa Loftus from Blanchardstown, who queued from 10a.m. on Monday morning, didn't mind the wait.

"There's better value here. It's worth queuing to get a house like these. After queuing all night with the others, at least we'll know our neighbours!"

Fiona Fleming from Yellowbatter in Drogheda also queued for her three-bed dream home from early on Monday morning.

"The next lot of houses will be £4,000 or £5,000 dearer, so to save that overnight is a good investment", she said.

Three-bedroom houses in the estate are currently £83,000 while the four-bedroom houses are just over £89,000.



By Pat Flanagan