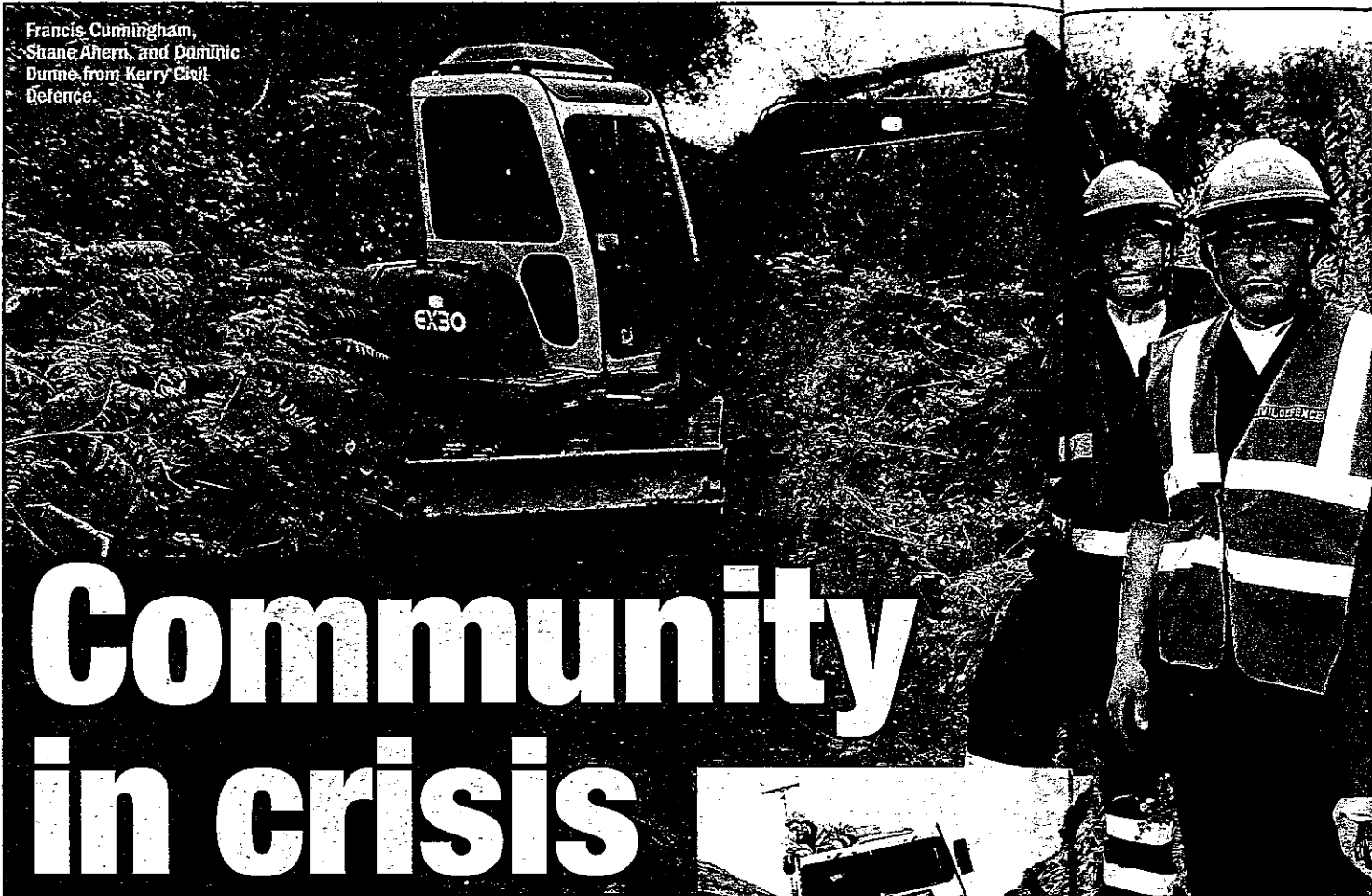


Francis Cunningham, Shane Aherne, and Dominic Dunne from Kerry Civil Defence.



Community in crisis

■ Civil Defence moves to help locals still stranded after landslide

A SPECIALISED ALL-TERRAIN track machine, the only one of its kind in the country, was brought to Kerry for the first time ever last week - to help create an emergency access route for sixteen homes in Rossbeigh cut off after a road collapse.

BY SINEAD KELLEHER

Kerry Civil Defence workers have spent the past week creating the access route to ensure that fire service and ambulances can reach the residents in the event of an emergency.

The arrival of the specialised all-terrain equipment - known as the Hagguland - is the latest bid to help the residents on the Cliff Road in Rossbeigh, who say they have been "living on an island" for over a month.

The road disappeared in a landslide on September 13th, forcing Kerry County Council to close it off in case it collapses fully and falls into the sea.

The closure left the area cut off to ve-

hicles - and forced stranded locals to walk between 2km and 4km trip every time they want to leave their homes. The Civil Defence moved in last Wednesday to begin work in the area.

"This is the first time that we have used this equipment in Kerry. We had to because of the sheer drop involved in where the route is.

"The route is only for specialised jeeps and cannot be used by ordinary vehicles to access the homes," said Tom Brosnan of Kerry Civil Defence.

"If there is a fire or an ambulance is needed the jeeps are located outside and everything can be transferred to these specialised jeeps to reach the homes."

The jeeps now provide the only ac-



Civil Defence workers operate the Hagguland at Rossbeigh last Wednesday.

cess to the 16 houses along the Cliff Road. The Kerry Civil Defence jeeps can also be used by residents to transport shopping and other necessities for their homes.

"They're more or less living on an island. Our priority is to help them out. It is a very difficult situation all around," Mr Brosnan said.

Heating oil is another issue that must be addressed as winter approaches. Kerry Civil Defence is now sourcing specialised equipment to allow them to transport oil into the cut off area, and then pump it to the houses.

However, for the coming months, the residents will remain isolated as Kerry County Council seeks a solution.

ROSSBEIGH 'EXTREMELY'

THE CUL-DE-SAC ROAD is seriously undermined by a matter of serious concern.

County Council heard on Monday. Finding alternative access and a long term solution is "extremely challenging," the meeting was told.

Some of the houses are only a few hundred metres from the cliff edge, high over the sea overlooking Dingle Bay.

The council had brought in a number of consultants and geotechnical experts visited to advise them. Coastal protection, an entirely new road linking with the upper road and putting in place a Bailey Bridge were among the options.

A delegation from Kerry County Council and of locals was to meet yesterday (Wednesday)

New Tomás book comes straight from the heart

TOMÁS Ó SÉ writes just like he played football - straight from the heart. His autobiography, *The White Heat*, which he launched by Paul Galvin at The Brehon Hotel in Killarney this Sunday, is a gripping account of his 17-year senior inter-county career and a rare insight into the personal life

Throughout his playing career, he said he never had a major falling out with anybody. He writes about the drinking incident in 2009 when he was dropped by Jack O'Connor for a game against Antrim.

