



An
Bord
Pleanála

Planning Appeal Online Observation

Online Reference: (NPA-OBS-
000742)

Online Observation Details

Contact Name:	David Doherty
Lodgement Date:	08/04/2022 09:25:28
Case Number / Description:	312981

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Payment Method:	Online Payment
Cardholder Name:	Avril O.Brien
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An Bord Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1.

08.04.22

RE: Observation on PL04.312981 – Belvelly Port Facility, Marino (Townland), Marino Point, Cobh, Co. Cork (Cork County Council ref. 20/6955)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to make this observation on the appeal of Cllr Marcia D'Alton in relation to the development which Gouldings and the Belvelly Marino Development Company propose at Marino Point.

As a resident of Passage West, my sincere concerns about the proposed development at Marino Point are described below. This town of 5,800 people is one that understands shipping and the impact of living close to a port. Although I acknowledge that Marino Point is zoned for industrial development and that the proposed Gouldings/Port of Cork move from Centre Park Road and the City Quays could be good for Cork City, this cannot be at the expense of the quality of life of Passage West residents. Previous activity at Marino Point had severe and long-lasting impacts on the development of Passage West. This cannot be allowed again. It is therefore critical that the planning application would be honest in its assessment of potential impact on Passage West and would employ the best of modern technology and monitoring to minimise those impacts.

1. Noise from jetty operations at night-time

Marino Point is only 500 metres from our home in Passage West. Also, because Passage West slopes steeply up from the waterfront, many of the homes on the Passage West hills, although appearing to be at a distance from Marino Point, are actually remarkably close as the crow flies. We have had experience of noise at Marino Point which is heard clearly at both low and higher altitudes in Passage West. The narrow body of water that separates Marino Point from Passage West does not absorb sound. As is commonly known, sound travels over water. This is our experience in Passage West.

Operational noise from Marino Point is not such a concern during the day when the busyness of life has its own range of sound. It is however a very grave concern during the night. The Port of Cork says that it is a 24/7/365 port. They say that although they try to carry out their shipping operations during the day, there will be times when either due to weather or shipping schedules, it will be necessary to berth and load/offload ships at night. The impact of the noise and vibration from ships being guided into Marino Point by tugs at night with their collective engines running either forward or astern as the ship is manoeuvred alongside the jetty cannot be underestimated. This kind of night-time noise is not described in the planning application. It is essential that it is evaluated and its impact is minimised. When a ship is manoeuvring in the river, it can be as near as 350-400 metres from the Passage West waterfront.

2. Noise from ships' generators at night-time

When a ship is alongside the jetty, its generators run through the night. The generators run even when the ship's engines are off and when there is no loading/unloading. The generators provide the power that is essential for the ship's crew to live comfortably. However ironically, the noise from these

generators can make a night's sleep very uncomfortable in Passage West. Their sound is like a low rumbling that seems to penetrate the walls of a home. The impact of generators at night was not mentioned in the planning application yet it is this impact that is most feared in Passage West. The planning application suggests that up to 100 ships will berth at Marino Point each year and that each will take 1-2 days to load/offload. In the case of fertiliser ships, offloading may take longer because it is dependent on dry weather. The implication for Passage West is that generators are likely to be running at the jetty on most nights of the week. It is essential that the impact of these generators is evaluated and that disturbance to Passage West residents is minimised.

I ask the Board to please give consideration to my very real concerns as outlined. The relevant fee of €50 accompanies this observation.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Doherty', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Doherty