

Áras an Chontae,
Cnoc na Radharc, Gaillimh.
Áras an Chontae,
Prospect Hill, Galway.

Fón/Phone: (091) 509 000
Facs/Fax: (091) 509 010
Idirlíon/Web: www.galway.ie
www.gaillimh.ie

SMS: (087) 7799888
Twitter: @galwaycoco

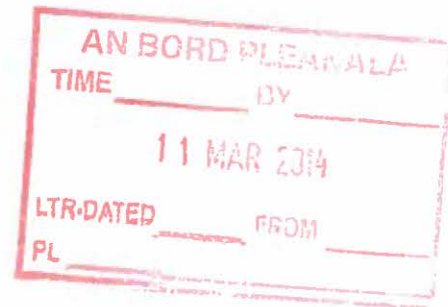


Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Your ref: PA0033

10th March 2014

An Bord Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1.



Re: Submission on Galway Harbour Extension proposals

A Chara,

Please find our comments relating to Galway Harbour Extension, Your Reference: PA0033.

- 1.1 This project has been submitted to An Bord Pleanala for consideration under Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (amended) following an extensive period of consultation with An Bord Pleanala.
- 1.2 It is noted that in Section 8.4 of the Planning Report submitted as part of the development application, it is clearly stated that the assessment of alternatives to the current proposal have been assessed and it has been concluded that the scheme, as proposed, is considered to be the only suitable proposal through which the fundamental Galway Harbour Extension project objectives can be achieved. Having regard to the identified impact of the proposed development on the Natura 2000 sites in the vicinity, it is asserted that there are Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) which should be taken into account in the assessment of the proposal.

Iasachtaí/Deontais Tithíochta
Housing Loans/Grants
☎(091) 509 301
✉housing@galwaycoco.ie

Iarratais Tithíochta
Housing Applications
☎(091) 509 300
✉housing@galwaycoco.ie

Seirbhísí Corparáideacha
Corporate Services
☎(091) 509 225
✉corpserv@galwaycoco.ie

Timpeallacht & Tréidíochta
Environment & Veterinary
☎(091) 476 402
✉environment@galwaycoco.ie

Bóithre, Iompar & Muirí
Roads, Transportation & Marine
☎(091) 509 309
✉roads@galwaycoco.ie

Acmhainní Daonna
Human Resources
☎(091) 509 303
✉hr@galwaycoco.ie

Mótarcháin
Motor Taxation
☎(091) 509 099
✉motortax@galwaycoco.ie

Ciár na dToghthóirí
Register of Electors
☎(091) 509 310
✉electors@galwaycoco.ie

Seirbhísí Uisce
Water Services
☎(091) 476 401
✉water@galwaycoco.ie

Pobal & Fiontar
Community & Enterprise
☎(091) 476 400
✉community@galwaycoco.ie

Pleanáil
Planning
☎(091) 509 308
✉planning@galwaycoco.ie

Leabharlann
Library
☎(091) 562 471
✉info@galwaylibrary.ie



2.0 Regional Planning Guidelines 2010 – 2022

It is acknowledged that the development of a strong, vibrant Galway Gateway will have positive effects on the wider West Region. The development strategy adopted in the Regional Planning Guidelines includes policies and objectives that support the sustainable re-development of Galway Harbour which is seen as critical to the continued important role played by the harbour in the growth of the West Region. An examination of the proposal submitted to An Bord Pleanála for consideration would appear to be consistent with the specific objective IO21 of the Guidelines and contains proposals for the enhanced integration of the harbour with the rail and road network.

3.0 Galway County Development Plan 2009 – 2015.

- 3.1 The current County Development Plan for Galway is strongly supportive of the continued growth of the Galway Gateway and Metropolitan area. The Strategic Aims as set out in Section 1.5 of the plan include Aim 3 – Create a receptive development environment in response to national and regional policy such as the National Spatial Strategy, The National Development Plan 2007 – 2013 and the West Regional Planning Guidelines and secure the development of the identified major infrastructural projects which will underpin sustainable development throughout the County and Region during the Plan period.
- 3.2 Strategic Spatial Planning Objective SP 4 commits the Council to investigating the potential for development of integrated transportation hubs at Tuam, Garraun and Athenry to maximise the strategic integration of transport and rational land uses. The development of a rail link from the proposed Galway Harbour site would be facilitated by an integrated transport link at either the newly opened Garraun station or at a location in proximity to the station at Athenry.
- 3.3 A key Core Aim of the Plan (as amended by the inclusion of the Core Strategy) is to build on the regional-level linkages between County Galway, the Galway Gateway and other parts of the West Region by supporting the implementation of regional spatial strategies as set out in the West Regional Planning Guidelines 2010 and cooperating on areas of mutual planning interest.



- 3.4 Policy RT33 – Galway Ports and Harbour Policies states that the Council will support the expansion of Galway Sea Port and Ros a Mhil and potential benefits that can be delivered to the County through the development of rail distribution facilities at appropriate locations in the county.
- 3.5 Section 4: Economic Development and Tourism also contains policy ED35, which supports the 2002 Report entitled “Water Based Tourism; A Strategic Vision for Galway” commissioned by a number of Agencies in collaboration with Ireland West Tourism. The Report includes an aspiration to develop the Galway Harbour area as a marine recreation location which would be facilitated by the proposed Galway Harbour Extension project.
- 3.6 Policy ED20 positively supports and promotes sustainable tourism infrastructure development related to the enhancement of the County’s tourism profile with facilities such as those related to sailing, boating..and pier or marina developments.
- 3.7 Policy ED 36 seeks to facilitate infrastructure for the leisure craft and marine tourist sector.

4.0 Draft County Development Plan 2015 – 2021 (on public display 28th Feb 2014)

- 4.1 One of the Core aims of the Draft Plan is to build on the regional level linkages between the County, the Galway Gateway and other parts of the region by supporting the Regional Spatial Strategy as set out in the West Regional Planning Guidelines (see paragraph 2) above.
- 4.2 Objective TI22 of the Draft Development Plan recognises the strategic importance of both Ros a Mhil and Galway Harbour and commits to promoting and facilitating their continued sustainable development. Specific mention is made of Galway County Council’s commitment to collaboration with Galway City Council and Galway Harbour Company in the promotion of interconnectivity between Galway Harbour and Ros a Mhil.

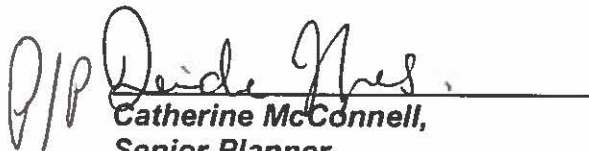
AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
TIME _____	BY _____
11 MAR 2014	
LTR-DATED _____	FROM _____
PL _____	

5.0 Summary

Having inspected the documentation received from Tobin Engineers on behalf of Galway Harbour Company, Galway County Council is supportive of the Galway Harbour Expansion proposals as outlined therein. The expansion of port facilities at Galway Harbour are considered critical in facilitating the growth of the Galway Gateway and Metropolitan area and in turn, will have positive economic and social effects for the wider West Region.

The Planning policy of Galway Council as iterated in the County Development Plan and Draft County Development Plan with regard to such a proposal is also supportive of the project which is recognised as being subject to full assessment under the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive.

Mise le meas,


Catherine McConnell,
Senior Planner,
Planning & Sustainable Development Unit,
Galway County Council