

## Fáilte Isteach

% Kitchen at the Museum,  
Spanish Parade,  
Galway

5th February 2014

An Bord Pleanála,  
64 Marlborough Street,  
Dublin 1

Ref: 61.PA.0033

AN BORD PLEANALA	
TIME _____	BY <i>reg</i>
10 MAR 2014	
LTR-DATED _____	FROM <i>Q</i>
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AN BORD PLEANALA	
Received:	<i>10/3/14</i>
Fee:	<i>CQ €50</i>
Receipt No.:	<i>B123493</i>

To whom it may concern,

We refer to the Planning Application from Galway Harbour Company regarding the extension of Galway Port.

The Latin Quarter organisation is very supportive of this planning application and commends the harbour company on their foresight in bringing this project to planning stage.

The Latin Quarter is the area of Galway situated on the left bank of the river corrib and defined by some of the city's most historic landmarks. It is home to some of Galway's best known shops, pubs and restaurants. The latin Quarter has been for years the acknowledged epicentre for much of Galway's renowned cultural activity and its extensive pedestrianised street's, the heartbeat of it's vibrant social scene.

The Latin quarter organisation was set up in 2008 to develop, manage and promote the area as a quality destination for visitors and locals alike.

The objectives of the company include:

- To attract visitors and drive footfall to the area through marketing and publicity.
- To assist local business deliver an enhanced product offering through co-ordination of training and development activities.
- To create unique visitor experiences through the development, management and promotion of key festivals, events and activities.
- Advocacy (representing the interests of the City and area with the executive and elected members of Galway City Council, Failte Ireland and other agencies).

The Latin Quarter is a progressive business group run by a voluntary committee of ten meeting weekly representing the interests of over 350 member business's and the interest's of the greater City in general. The Latin quarter is comprised of world class restaurants, Bars & Pub's, Retail Shops and Design houses, Schools, Language schools, Hotels, Theatres, City Museum, Art Galleries, Historical Sites, Outdoor Market's, Artisan Food producers, Churches, many services and offices and more.

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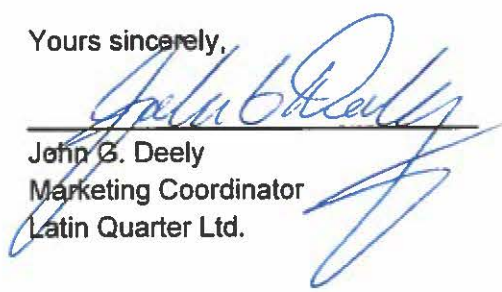
There are 2500 people employed in the area rising to 3000 during the tourism and peak seasons.

The business group of the Latin Quarter is situated in close proximity to the Harbour area and increased activity in and around the Harbour area has had a direct benefit to our business's. The most obvious examples are the run up to the Volvo ocean race we experienced increased revenue from 3 week's prior to the event, during and after, and similarly when recent cruise ship's visited. Everything we have in Galway City has originally come in from the bay. We view the further infrastructural development of the Harbour as crucial to the viability, success and sustainability of the city business community in the long term. The City centre's close proximity to the Harbour area make's it ideal for development as a key strategic destination for maritime events and festivals.

- There would be a huge boost to local employment during the early construction phase and the potential for future job's creating could result in up to 800 jobs due to the increased activity at the port.
- The potential contribution from the cruise tourism is immense as 10,000 visitors are expected to visit the city on cruise ships this year.
- The development of the maritime tourism industry and the use of the inner harbour and town quays to attract maritime festivals such as Volvo and Tall ships, sea festivals and National Sailing championships will prove vital in the long term.
- The opening up of the town quays for future expansion of the city and developing Galway as a waterfront city of excellence would be a huge benefit to the city in generating additional revenue from the Marina as a tourist attraction & destination.
- The development of the offshore energy sector will be a key strategic area of focus which the development can only enhance.
- The development will result in more efficient and cost effective inport / export of materials via the port to the city and region.

In summary, the development will be a huge benefit to our tourism industry which is the key to the long term success of the City.

Yours sincerely,



John B. Deely  
Marketing Coordinator  
Latin Quarter Ltd.

