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7th March 2014

An Bord Pleanála
64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1

11/3/14
Cd €50
B123557

TIME
11 MAR 2014
LTR-DATED

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Re: Submission on Planning Application 0033 –proposed Galway Harbour Extension

Dear Sir/Madam
In relation to the above proposed development I make the following submissions and further ask that an Oral Hearing be held in Galway City prior to any decision by the Board for the following reasons:

1. Given that the size and scale of the proposed development is to take place on lands to be reclaimed mainly from the foreshore and the sea in an area which is specially protected including designations as a candidate Special Area of conservation, a Special Protection Area and a proposed National Heritage Area.
2. Given the serious concerns of the local residents which I share that the scale and size of the proposed development will increase the risk of flooding. These fears have been heightened by Galway's recent experience of unprecedented serious coastal flooding and storm damage. In this regard, I believe that the Flood Risk Assessment and the effects of Climate Change set out at Chapters 8 and 11 of the EIS do not adequately address these concerns and fail to take adequate and/or sufficient notice of the flood history to date in the area and the up to date knowledge and evidence in relation to climate change from global warming and the inevitable consequent rises in sea level. Furthermore the EIS fails to acknowledge the significance and importance of the current flood risk project in progress by the Office of Public Works, the results of which will determine inter alia the

nature of the long term coastal defence works required. Indeed we have been informed by Galway City Council Management that we must await the final outcome of this study/analysis and report before flood protection works of a long term nature are undertaken.

3. Given that traffic congestion on our roads is at 'saturation point' and I quote from a relatively recent written submission to a Government Department by a former Galway City Manager, I would share residents concerns in relation to the impact of the proposed development on existing traffic congestion in Galway. Notwithstanding the proposed upgrading of the Lough Atalia Road including the lowering of the road under the bridge, I do not believe that this measure will be sufficient to overcome the inherent difficulties of access and egress to and from the new Port.
4. On a more general level and also inter-related to the proposals above I believe that the timing of this application is perhaps premature at this point given the said ongoing analysis by the Office of Public Works and also given that we are currently awaiting promised government legislation which will see the transfer of ownership of the 'Docklands' from the Harbour Company to the Local Authority. Also the justification for considering such a project as one necessary due to 'Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest' needs more detailed scrutiny and analysis as it would appear that no government funding will be forthcoming given Galway's status as a 'Port of Regional Significance' rather than a 'Port of National Significance' and notwithstanding that the application is being made under the said IROPI. Consequently in this regard the proposed model of funding which includes private investment, the selling of core inner harbor assets and loans certainly needs to be more fully explored in an open and accountable way in the context of what is best for the common good.
5. In the event that the Board holds an Oral Hearing I reserve my right to elaborate on my observations and also to make further observations as an elected representative at Council Level and at the Oral Hearing.

Finally, please find enclosed a cheque in the sum of 50 Euro as required to make my observation on this planning application.

Yours faithfully
Councillor Catherine Connolly

Cairnella Callero Connolly