

Claddagh Residents Association

(Established 1969)



c/o 14 Upper Fairhill Road
Claddagh
Galway

07 March 2014

An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
Received.	10/3/14
Fee:	€50
Receipt:	B.123485

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
TIME	BY reg
10 MAR 2014	
LTR-DATED	FROM e
PL	

**Re: Submission on Planning Application Ref: 61. PC0150
Galway Harbour Extension Application for Permission in
Respect of A Strategic Infrastructure Development**

Dear Sir/Madam

The Claddagh Residents Association at its most recent meeting decided to make a submission to An Bord Pleanála in relation to the application above on a number of grounds. We enclose the submission fee of €50 as per requirements.

There is quite a lot of information on this application, however based on our local knowledge of the area we feel there is merit for an oral hearing on this matter preferably in Galway due to some areas not getting enough consideration.

Flood Relief Measures

The Village of Claddagh has had significant issues with flooding over the years and there is evidence 100 year tidal/weather events are becoming more and more frequent. With a development of the scale of the Harbour Development the CRA are very concerned that consideration hasn't been given to improve existing flood relief measures to compensate from the changing of the tidal movements.

In a recent Hydrologists Report commissioned in relation to South Park certain areas of the park were identified as weak in regards to flood risk. We believe these changes should be made at a minimum to avoid any adverse impact of a development the scale proposed.

We are also aware that in response to the Hydrologists Report above Galway City Council has embarked on a Flood Study which is not due until 2015 and as a result we feel it should be incorporated into this project as it will significantly affect it.

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Scale of the Development

In the current financial climate the harbour would appear to be underutilised, the CRA aren't convinced that the scale of landfill proposed is required to achieve the same berthing areas for Liners & Tankers and a result would propose a smaller narrower jetty which may be more appropriate to provide the same traffic.

1 Cubic Metre of Structure/Landfill displaces 1000Litres of water so there will be significant displacement of water to an area that is already identified as a flood risk with not measures identified to mitigate that.

Traffic (Construction & Operational)

This development will affect traffic coming in and out of the new development, in the absence of the Outer City Bypass it will cause significant increase in traffic problems throughout the city.

Although maps supplied show that the major routes are avoiding the centre of the Claddagh Village, if traffic is increased the likely hood of hauliers using whatever routes possible to avoid this traffic are possible and would impact on the Claddagh Village. Off Peak traffic movements should be considered to be part of the permissions.

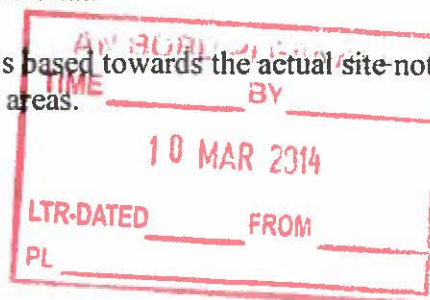
We would also seek that the coast road (Grattan Road) be excluded as a condition of the permission for the development which was done as part of the waste water treatment plant some years ago.

Consideration should also be given for a port tunnel or exclusively transferring cargo via a Rail Depot on the outskirts of the City in/out of the port which would again reduce the amount of haulage traffic.

Environmental Impact – Wild Fowl in South Park

South Park itself is reclaimed land based on the submission of the Harbour Board and now it is home to significant wild fowl and many of Galway's birdwatchers assemble there weekly. The CRA has concerns that due to the Scale of development it would have a detrimental impact on this natural habitat.

We feel that the focus of the application is based towards the actual site not giving any major conisation to the neighbouring areas.



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Waste Water & Sewerage Treatment

A development of this size will contribute to additional demands on the existing waste water and sewerage treatment. Most Cruise Liners, certainly the size depicted in the Marketing Material available from the application and YouTube are like small towns. The existing waste water treatment plant on Mutton Island is at capacity and already causing the residents of Claddagh distress with odours and noise. We believe that additional capacity in a location away from the existing site at Mutton Island should be incorporated into the plan to prevent the over filling of existing "at capacity" infrastructure.

In conclusion the Claddagh Residents Association welcome change and have been involved in many developments over the years to make Galway a better place. We can see the merits this development may bring, however the scale of the development and the associated impact on the areas surrounding it is significant and we believe that the commercial objectives of the Harbour Board could be met with a smaller development.

We have embraced the projects and worked with the city over the years with projects like the Volvo Ocean Race, Mutton Island Waste Water Plant where we added in local knowledge to ensure common sense prevailed.

Given that the planning application focus is the far side of the river Corrib we feel that the impacts that it may have on the Claddagh are not being included in the plan in any great detail. A village that is world famous for its natural beauty and people. We take care of our area, winning local and national awards over the years we believe that Venice is where the Cruise Ships go to see a town/village that's flooded and not the village of Claddagh.

We would welcome the opportunity to make an oral submission in Galway on the project if and when it comes up and would be willing to make available the local knowledge of our area as regards the flood risks that appear from the application to be brushed over.

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Cox', written over a horizontal line.

Thomas Cox
Hon Secretary

