

The Secretary

An Bord Pleanála

64 Marlborough Street

Dublin 2

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7th March 2014.

Re: Comments on the application on behalf of Galway Harbour Company for permission, submitted under section 37E of the Planning & Development Act, 2000, as amended. To extend the Port of Galway into environmentally protected areas of Galway Bay as Strategic Infrastructure Development.

Dear Sir,

As Galway natives and former residence of the Claddagh now living of the Fr. Griffin Road, we would like in this submission to state in the strongest possible way our total opposition to the current application being made on behalf of The Galway Harbour Company – which is for the development of a major extension of the Port of Galway.

- The Development as we understand it is to construct out, and into a substantial area of Inner Galway Bay, which we believe is protected under specific Natura 2000, SPA and cSAC designations. The objective of these designations, we would understand, is to protect sights such as these so that we may maintain and conserve, not only the areas but the species that inhabit these spaces for future generations. The Environmental Impact Statement presented with this application, we believe, admits that the loss of the habitat is “regarded as a significant negative impact on the Conservation objectives for both nature 2000 sites” if this is the case then it can only be that we are destroying the very thing we legislate to protect. Equally and most importantly the visual amenity of the Bay needs to be protected for the people of

Galway and for future sustainable development of tourism in this city and country.

- A major tourism drive launched recently by Tourism Ireland called “The Wild Atlantic Way” hopes to showcase the best views and experiences that Irelands Atlantic coasts has to offer, creating in its path world class views along the Atlantic coastline, Galway Bay is certainly one of these. One of the most iconic and natural beauty sights in the country, known and sung about worldwide, should in our view be promoted as a major viewing destination on this Atlantic trail and not as a new docks. We understand this application is being presented to An Bord Pleanala, and to the public under “Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest” what, in our view could be more imperative and of overriding public interest than the preservation of this iconic beautiful Bay and its natural species, which fishing communities and in particular the Inshore Commercial Fishing fleet depend on for their livelihoods.



- We note that the height, scale and sheer mass of this proposed development can only have a very serious detrimental effect on the visual amenity currently enjoyed not only by the local community but also by the people of Galway in general, who regularly walk from Salthill through South Park to Nimmos Pier enjoying its beauty and health promoting benefits.

- We feel also that the scale of this project and its location will have a detrimental effect not only on the area but on Galway in general in terms of flooding. The recent winter months have shown the disastrous consequences of building in areas where water needs to flow naturally. The effects of which result in homes being destroyed by huge volumes of water. Galway, we believe, Salthill and the Claddagh will be no exception

In conclusion we feel that the proposed development and its location may well increase the importation of fuels and substances which may have an effect on local people’s health. The increase in noise levels which ports of this size generate have proven to be of particular irritation and grievance to other communities located beside dock lands in this country. Galway will be no different.

There are numerous other points that we would wish to make in relation to this application and would urge An Bord Pleanala to hold a public hearing for the people of Galway as this is possibly one of the most serious developments proposed for the city and its future.

Yours faithfully



Susan & Sarah Curran,
"Springfield"
21 Fr. Griffin Road,
Galway.

s.curranspringfield@hotmail.com

