



An Bord Pleanála,  
64, Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1

Ref: 61.PA.0033

7<sup>th</sup> March 2014

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

Galway Arts Festival Ltd is very supportive of this planning application and commends the harbour company on their foresight in bringing this project to planning stage.

Founded in 1978 Galway Arts Festival is one of Ireland's leading festivals and a brand with a reputation for excellence at both at a national and international level. Galway Arts Festival is a non-profit organisation and is an incorporated company limited by guarantee. Galway Arts Festival has 6 full time employees and in addition hires 80 contract employees for up to eight weeks in June and July each year. The Festival had an economic benefit to the region of €20.1 million in 2013. The 2014 Festival takes place from 14<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> July.

Galway Arts Festival's vision is to present the best possible experience to as many people as possible. In 2014 there were 165,000 attendees at the Festival with 20% coming from overseas. By 2016 the Festival aims to deliver 200,000 Festival attendances with 30% coming from overseas.

The extension of the port will be of benefit to Galway Arts Festival for a number of reasons

- Potential contribution from cruise tourism – As noted above we aim to significantly increase the number of international visitors attending the festival in the coming years. Large cruise ships visiting the City during the two weeks of the festival would deliver large numbers of additional overseas tourists helping increase festival audiences. We would plan on undertaking joint international marketing campaigns with international Cruise line Companies.

- Opening up of the town quays for future expansion of the city and developing Galway as a waterfront city of excellence with additional revenue from the planned city centre marina as a tourist attraction & destination
- Potential for development of the area around the existing city docks to include new venues for the arts.
- Economic benefit to the city as a direct result of the additional jobs during the Construction phase

In summary we see huge potential economic benefit for the city, region and country as a whole with increased employment from the development of Galway Port. We look forward to a successful outcome to the planning process.

Yours sincerely,

  
John Crumlish  
CEO

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