

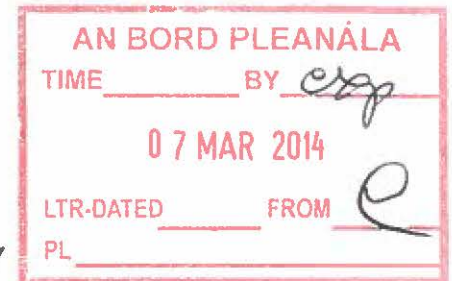


Freeport, Bearna, Co. Galway / Saorphort, Bearna, Co. na Gaillimhe
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An Bord Pleanála,
64, Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1.

Ref: 61.PA.0033



6th March 2014

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

This submission is on behalf of the Galway based Chapters of the BNI organisation who are very supportive of this planning application and commends the Galway Harbour Company on their foresight in bringing this project to planning stage.

- BNI Galway based Chapters: Tribes (2009), Oyster (2010) and Saibhreas (2009)
- BNI (Business Networking International) is a referral based organisation with worldwide membership and with 37 Chapters and approximately 780 members in Ireland and 47 small/micro businesses in Galway City/County Chapters.
- Our BNI chapters represent many types of businesses, but especially micro and SME organisations spread across the city and across the entire county. BNI has a policy of having only one category/type of business in each Chapter.
- Estimated number of employees supported directly by members of these Chapters is about 300 people.
- Our Chapters are inclusive of a range of businesses from IT/Cloud support, Florists, Solicitors, Accountants, Health & Safety, Carpenters, Electricians, Plumbers, Builders, Photographers, Hotels, Web Design, Painters, Life & Pensions, Graphic Design, Printers, Auctioneers, Oil and Heating services, Loss Assessor, Auto Service, Recruitment, Acupuncture, Insurance etc...
- Chapters meet at the Ardilaun Hotel & Salthill Hotel in Galway City and The Corralea Court Hotel in Tuam each week at 06.30am until 09.00am to share business referrals. A new Chapter is presently being established in Letterfrack, Co. Galway.
- The Port development impact on our members will be due to increased activity for the regional business sector and a case of "a rising tide lifts all boats".



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- This impact will arise principally from
 - A major boost to employment with approximately 200 jobs to be created during the construction phase and up to 800 jobs could eventually result due to the increased activity at the port
 - Economic benefit to the city and business as a direct result of the additional jobs during the Construction phase
 - Potential contribution from the cruise tourism (10,000 visitors expected to visit the city on cruise ships in 2014 – a recent survey for Port of Cork suggests that 80% of cruise visitors availed of tour opportunities with the crew opting to remain in the vicinity of the souvenir shops near the port).
 - Development of the maritime tourism industry- Using the inner harbour (town quays) to attract maritime festivals such as the Volvo Ocean Race, Tall Ships Race, Galway Sea Festival and the SB20 National Sailing Championships
 - Opening up of the town quays for future expansion of the city and developing Galway a waterfront city of excellence- additional revenue from city centre marina as a tourist attraction & destination
 - Development of high potential offshore energy sector and Marine Research
 - A more efficient and cost effective import/ export of materials via the port to the city and region
 - Major economic benefit to the city, region and country as a whole and establishing the West as a counterpoint attraction to Dublin/East coast

We are entirely supportive of this development for the entire West and the downstream increase in business activity which benefits will permeate all aspects of our lives.

We would welcome the opportunity to make a brief oral presentation at the hearing.

Yours sincerely,

Enda Folan, BNI Ambassador, sent on behalf of the Tribes, Oyster and Saibhreas Chapters.

Enclosed €50 cheque.

