

Galway Tour Guides Association

39 Ashlawn,  
Loughrea,  
Co. Galway.

06 March 2014.

An Bord Pleanála,  
64 Marlborough St,  
Dublin 1.

Ref : 61.PA.0033

Dear Sir,

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

The Galway Tour Guides Association is very supportive of this planning application and commends the Harbour Company on their foresight in bringing this project to planning stage.

Galway Tour Guides Association was formed in 2009 to encourage, develop, promote the work of Tour Guides in the west of Ireland and to provide networking opportunities for Failte Ireland qualified Guides.

There are currently c. 20 members in the group and they provide Guiding services both locally and nationally and also in the area of Marine and countryside pursuits. We expect the advent of the new Port and increased Cruise Liner traffic to be beneficial to our economic interests.

Many of our colleagues in Dublin and Cobh have a full season of work from the Cruise Liners which dock in those Ports and we expect that Galway will provide that boost to our work. It is an ideal location being so close to the City and an ideal base for touring for a day to The Burren and Cliffs of Moher, equally so to Conemara and Kylemore Abbey or to The Aran Islands.

There will be a huge boost to employment in the construction stage of c. 200 jobs and up to 800 could be result due to the increased activity in the port.

Surveys suggest that 10,000 visitors visit Cobh each year from Cruise Ships and 80% of those avail of tour opportunities as suggested above, while the crews visit the local shops, cafes, restaurants, bars etc. The inner Harbour of Galway has the potential to attract maritime festivals such as the Volvo Ocean Race, Tall Ships Race, Galway Sea Festival, and the SB20 National Sailing Championships.

There are many other opportunities in Galway Port with the development of off shore energy and increase of traffic in the import and export sectors. The new port will be of huge economic benefit for the region.

I trust that this application will be successful for the benefits it can bestow on its City and County.

Yours Sincerely,



Paul O'Donnell

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