

AN BORD PLEANÁLA
Received: 3/3/14
Fca: CRÉSO
Doc: B 123387

AN BORD PLEANÁLA
TIME _____ BY post
03 MAR 2014
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GALWAY'S WEST END

February 23rd, 2014.

An Bord Pleanála
64, Marlborough Street
Dublin 1

Ref: 61.PA.0033

To Whom It May Concern,

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

Galway's West End Traders are very supportive of this planning application and commends the harbour company on their foresight in bringing this project to planning stage. The possibility of what lies ahead can only be good for Galway City.

Galway's West End Traders are comprised of a large block of businesses, located in one of the oldest parts of Galway, known locally as "The West". The traders association has been in existence for many years and currently we have over 60 member businesses from the Dominick Street, Ravens Terrace, William St West and Sea Rd areas.

Our raison d'être is to promote the "West" as a thriving area to do business and to promote the many small niche businesses in the area. We also represent our members when dealing with Galway City Council, An Gardaí and other regulatory bodies. We are a voluntary organisation funded by members' annual subscriptions.

The West is one of Galway's' oldest areas and as such, we have been a part of Galway's' constant growth over the last century. Part of Galway's attraction is its ability to constantly re-invent itself and change with the times. Cities that stand still are left behind.

GALWAY'S WEST END

The fact that Galway has grown hugely over the last 50 years and retained its charm is down to its people and its leaders. We know that a huge majority of the business community are behind this application and it has our complete support.

While the docks development will present challenges for the city, these are the challenges Galway thrives on. The docks area has long needed a complete overhaul. The Volvo Ocean Race gave us all a glimpse of how wonderful the inner docks could be if it was a leisure marina.

The proposal also opens up the possibility of allowing the ever growing holiday cruise ship market to make Galway a regular stop. This would be a great boost to the whole city from a tourism point of view. Galway's West End is very proud of its ecological roots and we care deeply about the environment. The vast majority of our members are green friendly and very aware of our social responsibilities, however we feel the benefits of this project, far outweigh the negatives.

As such we are overwhelmingly in favour of the proposal.

Yours sincerely,



Simon Heaslip - Chairman,
Galway's West End,
c/o The Blue Note Bar,
3 William Street West,
Galway.

