



Kylemore Abbey
& Victorian Walled Garden

AN BORD PLEANÁLA
Received: 7/3/14
Fee: €250
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An Bord Pleanála,
64, Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1.

AN BORD PLEANÁLA
TIME _____ BY reg
07 MAR 2014
LTR-DATED _____ FROM E
PL _____

REF: GALWAY HARBOUR EXTENSION (61.PA0033)

Dear Inspector,

I am writing to you on behalf of the tourist attraction that is Kylemore Abbey in Co. Galway. We are fully supportive of the plans to extend the harbour at Galway which will be able to cater for cruise ships docking at this new facility.

Our business depends of tourism and in 2013, we had a bumper season, topped up by the arrival of 3 high profile & majestic cruise ships in Galway Bay. The cruise ship known as THE WORLD called to Galway and many of its passengers took coach tours to Kylemore to learn of the history of this fantastic abbey.

I see on the internet that there will be 8 liners calling to Galway in 2014, delivering almost 10,000 passengers into the city and region. We are already seeing the benefits of these ship calls as booking at Kylemore are reflected in this from the different cruise ship companies and ground handlers.

Presently in Galway, the cruise ships must anchor and tender their passengers ashore. This is clearly a risk prone activity and one that is not preferred by the shipping companies. The berthing of these ships is the solution and having looked at the plans at www.galwayharbourextension.com and from articles in the local and national press I can see the cruise ships can be accommodated in the new facility. Stepping ashore via ships gangway has untold advantageous such as safety, efficiency and time over passengers having to tender ashore.

Our business is dependent on more cruise passengers calling to Kylemore via the port in Galway. It simply means that we can retain employment in the locality and with increased passengers in 2014, we will be able to increase vital jobs in this remote and scenic part of Ireland.

We would ask that An Bord Pleanála consider the overall socio-economic impact that the harbour extension will have on the city and the region. We believe there are imperative reasons for overriding public interest in this planning application and would ask that you remember those inhabitants on the periphery who benefit so greatly by the opportunity that is presented by Galway being able to accept these cruise ships.

Yours sincerely,

pp. *Sharon Canelly*

John Lally

Managing Director

Kylemore Tourism Ltd.