

Gleann na Smol  
Seapoint  
Barna  
Galway

05 March 2014

An Bord Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1

AN BORD PLEANÁLA  
Received: 7/3/14  
Fee: C&ESD  
Receipt No. 6123467

AN BORD PLEANÁLA  
TIME BY post  
07 MAR 2014  
STR-DATED FROM e

**Re: Planning Reference 61.PA.0033**

Dear Sirs,

I write in connection with the above planning application to redevelop the harbour in Galway city. I am fully supportive of the plans.

Galway city and county have never reached their potential in relation to water-based leisure and maritime tourism. Galway Bay is a marvellous natural resource which could and should be a centre of water-based tourism. If facilities existed to make the city an attractive stopping-off point for international cruise ships, each such visit could potentially be worth hundreds of thousands of euro to the local economy. Major international maritime festivals such as the Tall Ships could also be hosted in Galway, providing a welcome boost to the local and national economy, supporting local jobs.

In addition, moving the heavier shipping to a new deep-water facility would allow for 24-hour access to the marina in the confined inner harbour, making it more attractive for leisure marine activities and for small commercial marine operators. This would have both economic benefits, as the number of leisure craft from Ireland, the UK and Europe visiting Galway and the west coast would undoubtedly increase, and also social benefits in that it would give the people of Galway an opportunity to get out on the water and enjoy the Bay and all it has to offer. There would be economic and employment benefits to Galway as the crews of visiting leisure craft tend to be high-spending tourists.

This potential redevelopment is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to dramatically improve the aesthetic attractiveness and economic vitality of Galway and, as such, it should be supported fully.

Yours sincerely,



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