

APPENDIX B REPORT

REPORT

PROPOSED CRUISE SHIP TENDER BERTH, BOAT HAVEN PONTOONS, DISABLED ACCESS AND ASSOCIATED WORKS AT GREENCASTLE HARBOUR

INTRODUCTION

Donegal Co. Council has provided temporary pontoons in 2012 to accommodate visiting leisure boats attending The Round the World Clipper Race in Derry. Temporary pontoons were also placed in the new harbour (under construction) in 2013 for use as a staging post by leisure craft visiting Derry for the year of culture and the Fleadh Cheoil. The permits for the temporary placing of the pontoons were granted under section 3(3) of the 1933 Foreshore Act. It is proposed to seek a full foreshore licence for the provision of boat haven pontoons with disabled access, a floating breakwater and a berth suitable for use by cruise ship tenders ferrying passengers ashore.

Current cruise ship and marine leisure infrastructure on the Foyle is centred in the City of Derry. Large cruise ships cannot enter Derry due to air draught limitations. Power cables at Culmore and the Foyle Bridge restrict the movement of large cruise ships. Tall ships are similarly hampered. Currently, tender boats ferrying passengers off cruise ships anchored at Greencastle use the pilot boat berth in the harbour which is often congested as only one tender can berth at any one time. An additional tender berth will improve efficiency of passenger transfer to coaches for departure on tours.

The provision of boat haven pontoons will provide much needed berthing facilities for leisure craft using the harbour and will act as a staging post for visiting boats. Gangway access to the pontoons and the provision of a disabled hoist will provide safe access for sailors with physical disabilities. There are currently 200 visiting boats per season using the marina facility in Derry comprising of individual and 'sailing in company' groups. Greencastle is an ideal staging post for Derry being only a 3 hour sail away. There are currently 20 local boats being accommodated in the existing harbour. This arrangement is not ideal as the existing harbour is essentially commercial and is very congested. It is envisaged that local boats will be accommodated at the new facility.

Works on the new harbour at Greencastle has been suspended due to lack of funding. It is proposed to place the pontoons in the shelter of the partially built breakwater in the new harbour and to provide further protection by the deployment of a floating breakwater.

PROJECT PROPOSALS

Floating Pontoons

It is proposed to provide a breakwater type pontoon measuring 20m x 4m. which will provide a berth for cruise ship tenders for passenger disembarkations. It will also act as an anchor point for the deployment of boat haven pontoons. Floating pontoons measuring 90m. x 2.5m. will be connected to the cruise ship tender pontoon and to an existing steel pile adjacent to the existing revetment breakwater. Interim restraints will be provided using chains connected to anchor blocks in the sea bed.



Typical Detail of Floating Pontoons

Access

Access to the pontoons will be by way of an 18m. long gangway secured to the shore. This will provide a gentle slope at all tidal conditions, providing safe access for disabled users. The gangway will access the existing coastal pathway through a security gate which links the pontoons to Greencastle Village.



Typical Detail of Gangway showing gentle slope for disabled access



Typical Detail showing Secure Gated Access

Floating Breakwater

An L shaped floating breakwater measuring 60m. x 4m. will be deployed at the southern end of the pontoons, adjacent to the existing revetment breakwater and will provide further protection from swells. The breakwater will be secured to the sea bed with chains and anchor blocks.



Typical Detail of Floating Breakwater

Disabled Access

Access for users with disabilities will be provided by way of a gangway which will be of sufficient length to provide gentle gradients at all tidal conditions. It is also proposed to provide a disabled hoist fixed to the cruise ship tender pontoon.



Typical Detail of Disabled Hoist

Electricity/Water

Illuminated card operated electric power points will be provided for use by boats using the facility. The cards will be held by the harbour master at Greencastle and will be provided for use at an appropriate cost. Mains water will also be provided at suitable points along the length of the pontoons.

Public Lighting/Aids to Navigation

Public Lighting will be provided adjacent to the gangway and at the entrance to the coastal pathway. Appropriate Aids to Navigation markings will be provided on the new facility as approved by Commissioners of Irish Lights.

CONCLUSION

The existence of the partially constructed breakwater and associated revetment works at the new harbour development presents an opportunity to develop a much needed boat haven at Greencastle. The rising popularity of sailing in the area along with an increased demand for multiple berths by 'sail in company' groups as well as individual visiting leisure boats has put pressure on existing facilities in the main harbour.

The existing harbour in Greencastle is essentially a commercial facility with limited spare berths. Leisure craft are accommodated on a seasonal basis but because of a lack of space, yachts have to be tied in trots of up to eight boats deep. This results in congestion in the harbour and affects navigation within the harbour. The provision of a separate area to accommodate leisure boats is essential to take pressure off facilities in the main harbour.

There have been a number of representations from boat owners in the past requesting facilities for disabled sailors. The provision of a gangway of sufficient length will provide access to the pontoons with gentle slopes at all tidal conditions. It is proposed to place a winch for use by disabled sailors to gain access to boats tied alongside the anchor pontoon.

The provision of a well appointed and well run facility will attract visiting boats to the area providing a much needed boost to the local economy. Temporary pontoons were provided in 2012 and 2013 to accommodate local and visiting yachts as well as 'sail in company' flotillas en route to the Round the World Clipper Race and Fleadh Cheoil in Derry City. Figures for the 'sail in company' events are as follows

2012	17 boats	80 passengers/crew
2013	25 boats	85 passengers/crew

On average, three cruise liners per annum use Greencastle Harbour for landing passengers. There is an average of 800 passengers per cruise ship landed in Greencastle. The provision of proper facilities for the efficient disembarkation of passengers will make Greencastle more attractive to visiting cruise liners.

Following on from the success of Derry's hosting of a stage of the Round the World Clipper Race in 2012, it has again been awarded the hosting of a stage of the race in 2014. Greencastle is an ideal staging post for boats attending this event as well as visiting boats in general.

Donegal Co. Council is the harbour authority for Greencastle Harbour which is managed by a full time harbour master. Greencastle Harbour is controlled by the Donegal Co. Council Certain Harbour Bye Laws 2010 which allows for charges to be imposed for the use of facilities. It is intended to charge an appropriate fee for the use of the new facilities.