SUBMISSION 60

foreshore

From:
Sent: 15 April 2014 16:09
To: foreshore
Subject: Objection to Marina Monkstown

I wish to object to the application FS 005 826 Foreshore License for Monkstown, Co. Cork.

My reasons are as follows:

the fabric and safety of Monkstown village, a residential, harbour village will be significantly compromised

The proposed modifications to the foreshore are ugly and take zero account of the aesthetic impact on a Victorian village Ireland's record for recognising and protecting what is an aesthetically valuable feature of Irish architectural heritage is lamentably poor; allowing this ugliness of a ghastly car park for vehicles on the foreshore in Monkstown will confirm our inability to protect what is valuable - we would be better advised to learn from how England manages heritage, both maritime, architectural and rural before this license is granted.

The target group of sailors, who would benefit from the proposed extension will need to be wealthy to afford the current prices for using the marina.

Granting the license will exclude rather than enable, even further, the use of the harbour by the greater sailing public; sailors who could afford to moor their boats in Monkstown, are increasingly no longer able to do this, as it becomes the preserve of a monied elite. Where are the regular sailors going to moor their boats, if the foreshore is privatised? How can the government justify prioritising a few over the greater public in this?

The enablement of economically disadvantaged groups, particularly in inner city Cork, who would like to learn to sail,

is missed by putting an extended marina in a small village downriver from Cork and not locating a marina closer to the city/in the city itself, where there are fewer ships to deal with and where there are so many people, who would like to learn sailing and who will never sail in Monkstown?

I have been living in Monkstown since 1970.

This year, for the first time in my memory, and during the severe wet period of flooding, the road from the Sand Quay in Monkstown, right down to Raffeen (beyond Murph's Pub) was completely flooded in both lanes, making driving very dangerous.

Everything points to further intensification of flooding with increasing climate change.

How can this license be granted, knowing that the road system can already not accommodate this flooding that has happened and the flooding that is expected?

Sailors who had moored boats in the current 86 berth marina, recognised that it could not serve them well in the severe windy weather earlier this year, 2014.

They relocated their boats out of the marina to protect them. Increasingly strong winds are now acknowledged as a feature of climate change.

If those who already berth in the marina need to leave it in windy weather, how on earth, can an extension be considered as safe?

The roads into Monkstown are very narrow i.e. the road from Passage West, from Raffeen and the back road from Rochestown are the only three routes into Monkstown.

How can these roads SAFELY accommodate all the proposed vehicles travelling to the proposed extended marina?

Who is going to regulate traffic in a village where there are primary school children every day?

Must the interests of all people who enjoy walking in Monkstown, living in Monkstown, cycling in Monkstown be secondary to those who sail?

The walking routes in Monkstown are enjoyed by locals and Cork city residents alike.

What recognition is given to them? There is only one path along the harbour on which to walk. Must they now expect traffic of cars, jeeps, boat trailors etc to be a feature across their daily walks?

Cork Harbour is increasingly relocating its shipping traffic to Ringaskiddy from the city centre. The traffic of ships in Monkstown Harbour reduces the areas in which people can sail safely.

The proposed marina extension and foreshore license would also reduce foreshore access onto the water for the general public in a permanent way, if sailors can permanently own foreshore, for boats - boats which will most of the time not even leave their berths. How can the dept of the Marine justify this favouritism of the few at the expense of the greater public?

The current 86 berth marina is not even occupied fully in the busiest sailing season - sailors who moored boats where the marina now is and who cannot afford the marina, are now obliged to moor much further west in the direction of Raffeen creek.

If this foreshore license is granted, it will enrich a tiny number of people at the expense of the greater public; it will not serve sailing; it will allow a few to profit, if it goes ahead, with Government approval (will this appalling tradition ever change?) it will destroy a lovely harbour village; it will compromise safety of pedestrians, cyclists and drivers alike.

Sincerely,

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SECAD
South & East Cork Area Development
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11-04-2014

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government at Foreshore Unit,
Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government,
Newtown Road,
Co Wexford.

Re: Foreshore Licence Application No, FS 005826

Dear Minister,

I am writing to express support for the application made by Monkstown Marina Company to extend their current marina facility.

South and East Cork Area Development Ltd (SECAD) have supported Mr. James O'Brien with the marina project from the outset, initially approving funding towards the cost of the environmental impact study and subsequently proving capital support to instate the current marina facility.

Mr. O'Brien has a vision to further develop the marina which SECAD fully support. Investment in maritime facilities across Cork Harbour is critical in order to maximise the potential of such a wonderful resource. Cork Harbour Marina has been a hub of activity since opening and has undoubtedly made Cork Harbour more accessible for all types of maritime activity. The multiplier effect of the investment is obvious, many new businesses have opened in Monkstown and the Monkstown Bay Sailing Club have recorded significantly increased interest in their regattas and special racing events.

SECAD continue to support a range of tourism businesses utilising Cork Harbour and work closely with the Port of Cork, Ring of Cork, Failte Ireland and Cork County Council amongst others to promote tourism, enterprise and engagement within Cork Harbour. Marinas are critical to any harbour development strategy as safe access and berthing are key enablers.

On behalf of the Board of SECAD I wish to reiterate our full support for the proposed extension to Cork Harbour Marina.

Yours sincerely,

Ryan Howard - CEO

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M. Ryan Howard, CEO

Company Registration No. 233937

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