Submission 64

Pat O'Neill - (DECLG)

From: foreshore
Sent: 16 May 2014 09:33
To: Pat O'Neill - (DECLG)
Subject: FW: FS005826 - Monkstown Bay Marina Company Ltd Foreshore Application

-----Original Message-----
From
Sent: 13 April 2014 14:43
To: foreshore
Subject: Ref: FS005826 - Monkstown Bay Marina Company Ltd Foreshore Application

Dear Minister,

As a long-time resident of Monkstown and as a person that runs his own business in Monkstown, I write to support the application by Monkstown Bay Marina Company Ltd for a Foreshore Licence to extend the existing marina development.

The existing Phase 1 marina development has had a major positive impact on Monkstown itself and on Cork Harbour in terms of increased water-based amenity activity and the resulting commercial spin-off for other businesses in Monkstown and the Lower Harbour. Shops, restaurants, bars and boat maintenance providers have all benefited.

Even auctioneers are now using photos of the existing marina in their sales ads for houses in the Monkstown/Glenbrook/Passage area to illustrate the attractiveness of the area!

During the 2013 boating season - May to September - the existing marina was at full capacity. I know. I pass by the marina every evening walking my dog. There is a clear demand for this kind of facility in the Lower Harbour. Unlike private sailing clubs, this marina is open to anyone who can afford the berthing charge - there are no restrictions. Many people who found it very difficult previously to access the water can now do so at the existing marina. And, safe access to the water is 'The' critical issue in the promotion of all water-based activities - whether that be sailing, sailing training courses, pleasure boating, fishing, kayaking, water taxi, etc, etc.

The Phase 2 marina development - the subject of this foreshore licence application - will bring significantly greater benefits to Monkstown and to the lower Harbour through greater and safer ease of access under all tidal conditions - of that there is absolutely no doubt!

There is also the twin issues of balanced development and appropriate development. For decades, Cork Harbour has benefited from industrial and port/marine-related development. What has been blatantly absent during this period is amenity development. The expansion of the existing marina in Monkstown will help to balance the glaring deficit of amenity development. The development is also very appropriate as it is in full alignment with Failte Ireland's stated objective to make Cork Harbour a destination for international sailing tourism. It is also in alignment with efforts to develop Spike Island as a tourist destination. One of the biggest stated challenges in achieving the projected visitor numbers to Spike Island will be adequate access routings. The expanded marina in Monkstown will help to overcome that issue.

In conclusion, I repeat my full support for Monkstown Bay Marina Company Ltd in it's application for a foreshore licence for a marina expansion.

Yours faithfully,