

# The Nora Barnacle House

Bowling Green, Galway

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Re: Ref. No: ABP - 320938 - 24  
Woodquay Park Enhancement by Galway City Council (GCC)

7-11-24

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am the owner and curator of the Nora Barnacle House Museum, a small heritage museum dedicated to James Joyce and his wife Nora. The house was derelict and in need of much repair when I bought it. I saved this house for its heritage and the importance of protecting things for future generations. It this time of Climate Crises the heritage of our trees and hedges is paramount. The Nora Barnacle House is a 3-minute walk from the Woodquay Park.

I would like to object in the strongest terms to the proposed plan for the small park in Woodquay, Galway. The park, a gem in the heart of the city is now under threat by a proposed plan that is truly shocking. The park as it stands is in need of refurbishment indeed, some gentle adjustments but certainly not a wrecking ball that threatens the entire park. The park in Woodquay has a special feature as it is an enclosed structure. Once inside the gates the noise of heavy traffic and honking cars recede, replaced by bird song, children's laughter, conversations and rustling newspapers.

In the new plan proposed by the Galway City Council there are some shocking adjustments:

1. All the railings are to be removed and so is the hedge.  
Hedgerows as we know are essential for biodiversity and should be respected.
2. Four trees are to be removed.

I would like to draw your attention to the proposed changes, specifically point 14 which states "Four trees would be removed. One Grey Alder would be removed from the centre of the park to open up views to the river." I am aghast at the decision to remove a beautiful Grey Alder, for the simple reason 'to open up views of the river'. How many people would agree to the cutting down of a beautiful tree so that they could have a better view of the Corrib - all the while, within two steps of the park there is a river walk with multiple benches along the river with views unobstructed.

Next, "Two Swedish Whitebeams and one Silver Birch would be removed from the Waterside end of the park. The Birch is near the end of its lifespan and the Whitebeam is growing with the hedge." What is wrong with trees intertwining with hedges? I would like a second opinion on the birch tree, which they say is "near the end of its lifespan".

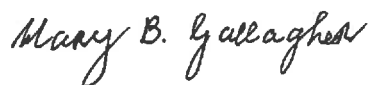
Mature trees are cherished, everyday we hear of their importance for the environment and carbon sequestering. These trees do not need to be felled and should be respected. Mature trees enhance the beauty of the park.

I am insulted by the diversion of '8 new trees will be planted'. In what area are the 8 new trees being planted? This is unclear.

"The trees are in their autumn beauty" (WB Yeats) ... let it not be their last.

I respectfully ask again, that An Bord Pleanála refuse this planning permission

Yours sincerely



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Mary B. Gallagher