



Lauren Griffin

From: Lauren Griffin
Sent: Monday 11 November 2024 16:39
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Ref. No: ABP - 320938 - 24

A Chara,

The Board acknowledges receipt of your email, official correspondence will issue in due course.

Kind regards,

Lauren

From: Alan Phelan [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday 11 November 2024 13:00
To: LAPS <laps@pleanala.ie>
Subject: Ref. No: ABP - 320938 - 24

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Sir/Madam,

I would like to file an objection to the Woodquay Park Enhancement by Galway City Council (GCC) Ref. No: ABP - 320938 - 24.

Firstly to explain my connection to the area. I got to know many residents from Woodquay and Waterside from a project in 2004 that was commissioned and funded by the Department of Communications, Marine, and Natural Resources Commission for an Artwork in Connection with the Rollout of Broadband Communications Infrastructure in collaboration with the Galway Arts Centre.

Titled 'Newtownwhowhatwhere?' the project was designed as a dynamic archive presented on a separate website as an interactive archive database and an additional video made with participants. It stemmed from a dialogue rooted in the memories, stories and ideas of the history of the area in Galway city once called St Stephen's Island but is now known by several different names – Newtownsmith, Woodquay, Waterside or Barracalla.

My additional connection was working as the archivist for the Erasmus Smith Schools Archive which holds particular rental and historical records from the area which were used in the project. I got to know many amazing people from the area and it is so very disappointing to hear they were not consulted on this 'Enhancement' project for the Woodquay Park. They are very strong community who stand together on many ongoing hertiage issues in the community of which they are proud, active and strong. The heritage report is very thin on detail and does not seem to have any understanding of the history of the area or much detail on it. The report arrogantly assumes the Park has no local significance and the 'do-nothing' options are hypocritical, lazy, and greatly disappointing.



The objection is based on a number of oversights and lack of consideration for the local users which include residents and school children. The Park is used despite the mis-guided reports, as a quiet and safe refuge for the local community. The proposed development which removes railings and proposes a variety of new paths, destroys this green area. There is no understanding of the actual use of the Park, that the open plaza design will invite anti-social behaviour from the 7 local pubs which are currently kept at bay by the railings. The plan is generic and lazy given that there was already a better plan 5 years ago by Mary Reynolds which seems to have been quashed or ignored (despite initial funding and support from the Council).

The enhancement plans would appear not to include the immediate residents and school children in the aspirations for the site and instead aim to increase footfall from possible tourists bringing further congestion to a quiet residential area. Galway city centre is tight on space and there are better ways to 'enhance' this Park that engage with resident wishes and uses.

Best wishes,

Alan Phelan

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