



Lauren Griffin

From: Lauren Griffin
Sent: Wednesday 13 November 2024 09:36
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: ABP - 320938 - 24 - Objection to Woodquay Park Enhancement Proposal by Galway City Council

A Chara,

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

Kind regards,

Lauren

From: Finbar McHugh [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday 11 November 2024 16:50
To: LAPS <laps@pleanala.ie>
Subject: ABP - 320938 - 24 - Objection to Woodquay Park Enhancement Proposal by Galway City Council

Caution: This is an **External Email** and may have malicious content. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact the ICT Helpdesk.

Finbar McHugh

5 Walsh's Terrace, Woodquay,

Galway, H91RHF8

11/11/2024

An Bord Pleanála

64 Marlborough Street

Dublin 1

Email: laps@pleanala.ie

Reference Number: ABP - 320938 - 24

Dear An Bord Pleanála,

I am writing to formally object to Galway City Council's proposed Woodquay Park Enhancement Project. I appreciate and respect the Council's decision to take steps toward enhancing and improving our city's public spaces. However, I am disappointed with the proposed changes, which differ significantly from the initial plans I viewed during the consultation day at the Rowing Club.



My primary concern is that the new design lacks a sense of identity or reference to Galway's unique heritage and character. Woodquay Park is a valued green space in our community, essential for local families, schools, and residents. This new plan, which would transform it into a plaza-like area, diverges from the original vision and risks diminishing the park's function as a safe, green sanctuary in the city.

Reasons for Objection:

1.

Need for Greater Collaboration with the Community

The current proposal does not reflect meaningful collaboration with the Woodquay Residents Association, local residents, or nearby schools, who are essential stakeholders. A plan that incorporates local input and celebrates Galway's identity would be far more valuable. I believe that revisiting the original concept and working closely with the community could lead to improvements without a complete redesign.

2.

Safety and Accessibility Concerns

Removing the existing railings and gates raises serious safety issues, particularly for the local schools who rely on the park as a secure green space for their students. Without the boundaries that provide this security, the park will be exposed to traffic and other hazards, making it less suitable for school use and potentially encouraging anti-social behavior, given the number of bars nearby.

3.

Preservation of Heritage and Natural Features

The park's historic hawthorn hedge, over a century old, holds significant heritage value and should be preserved. The current proposal neglects this feature, risking damage or removal. Furthermore, removing two trees and disrupting the roots of others would alter the park's natural landscape, which is fundamental to its identity.

4.

Impact on Community Usage and Park Identity

Woodquay Park serves as a vital green space, especially for schools and families. Transforming it into a hard-surfaced plaza-like area would reduce its appeal for nature-based activities. The lack of Galway-specific identity in the new design is disappointing, and it misses an opportunity to honor the city's unique culture and history in a way that resonates with the community.

In summary, while I support Galway City Council's efforts to enhance public spaces, I respectfully urge An Bord Pleanála to reconsider this proposal. The current design would benefit greatly from additional community collaboration to ensure it aligns with the original vision and maintains Galway's distinctive character. I hope we can work together to preserve Woodquay Park as a safe, green, and community-centered space that respects its heritage and serves the needs of residents and schools.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Finbar McHugh

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Galway, H91RHF8

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Sincerely,

Finbar McHugh
Woodquay Resident



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Woodquay Resident