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From: Coiste Tacaíochta Chalafort Ros an Mhíl
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Ros an Mhíl Harbour Development / Forbairt Chalafort Ros an Mhíl

Coiste Tacaíochta Chalafort Ros an Mhíl, welcomes this opportunity to highlight the need for the development of a deepwater pier at Ros an Mhíl. This project is included in the Government Infrastructure and Capital Investment Programme 2016 – 2021 ‘Building on Recovery’ and is important in terms of both the National Marine Spatial Plan 2021 and the regional development of South Conamara. It is anticipated that full planning permission for the development of a 200m deep water pier with a minimum depth of -12 meters will be in place before the end of 2017. (Galway County Council, Ref No 17/967). The Deep Water Pier planned for Ros an Mhíl will fulfil the criteria required for Tier 2 ports.

Background:

Since 1999 a number of reports and cost benefit analysis studies on this project have been completed. The most recent report: Rossaveel Harbour Deep Water Quay, Cost Benefit Analysis (DKM Economic Consultants, June 2017) concludes “*We conclude that this is a worthwhile project which generates a significantly positive return for society*”. All of the reports have indicated that this infrastructure is required in order to facilitate the development of fishing and other marine based activity in South Conamara.

Reasons why this development is required:

Fishing

- Ros an Mhíl is a Major Fishery Harbour Centre situated closest to the most productive fishing grounds in Western Europe,
- Fishing boats over 100 feet have been prohibited from entering the Harbour due to a lack of deepwater berthage,
- Unless deepwater facilities are provided at Ros an Mhíl this declining trend in fish landings will continue.

Tourism

- The main port of access to the Aran Islands with an excess of 350,000 passenger movements per annum,
- The fourth largest port in the country with regard to passenger movements,
- There are six ferries to the Aran Islands on a daily basis,
- A deepwater berth at Ros an Mhíl would facilitate visits from cruise liners with passengers disembarking for trips to Galway City, Mayo, Conamara and the Aran Islands,
- The development of the Harbour would facilitate marine tourism activities, i.e. sea angling, sailing, diving and chartering.

Commercial

- Coiste Pobail Ros an Mhíl surveyed 50 National and International companies who are operating in the area. All the companies who responded stated that the development of a deepwater harbour at Ros an Mhíl would allow them to expand their operations and create additional employment,
- A deepwater harbour is required in this area to facilitate and to service deep-sea Aquaculture and Marine Energy projects,
- Marine transport is the most cost efficient method of bulk transport. A deepwater pier would facilitate the development of industries that produce bulk cargos in the BMW area. This method of transport dramatically reduces the number of heavy goods vehicles on the roads,
- A deepwater pier would be ideally located to service the oil and gas exploration operations for the Rockall Trough, the Corrib and Cong fields.

Services

- The development of Ros an Mhíl would create employment in related service industries, i.e. transport, engineering, hotels, restaurants and marine services etc.,
- A deepwater facility would provide a safe and accessible harbour for state services operating of the west coast (The Naval Service, Irish Lights, Marine Institute Research Vessels, Marine and Rescue Services etc.).

Conclusion:

Ros an Mhíl is a safe, sheltered, natural harbour located 24 miles west of Galway City. Most of the land in the harbour area is state owned and designated for industrial development. The road infrastructure serving Ros an Mhíl harbour will be significantly upgraded when the Galway Outer Ring road is completed. All other services, water, power, broadband, etc., are already in place.

The development of the harbour would contribute significantly to the socio economic development of the Conamara Gaeltacht providing employment for the local Irish speaking community. The development of Ros an Mhíl Harbour complies with Government spatial and rural development policies.

This project is actively supported by the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine, the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Galway County Council, Fáilte Ireland, Fishing Organisations, Fish Processing Organisations, Ferry Operators and Ros an Mhíl Community Development Committee.

Síniú:

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Ó: Coiste Tacaíochta Chalafort Ros an Mhíl
Chuig: Comhairliúchán 2017 den Chreat Náisiúnta Pleanála 2017 – Éire 2040
Dáta: 8 Samhain 2017

Forbairt Chalafort Ros an Mhíl

Cuireann Coiste Tacaíochta Chalafort Ros an Mhíl fáilte roimh an deis béim a leagan ar an ngá le cé dhomhain mhara a thógáil i Ros an Mhíl. Tá an togra seo mar chuid den chlár Infheistíocht Bhonneagair agus Chaipitil 2016- 2021 ‘Ag Cur le Téarnamh’ de chuid an Rialtais agus tá sé tábhachtach ó thaobh an Phlean Náisiúnta Spásúil Mhuirí 2021 agus forbairt réigiúnach Chonamara Theas de. Táthar ag súil go mbeidh ceadúnas pleanála iomlán faighte d’fhorbairt ché dhomhain mhara 200m a bheidh -12m faoin bhfarraige ar a laghad roimh dheireadh na bliana 2017. (Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe, Uimhir Thagartha 17/967). Comhlíonfaidh an ché dhomhain mhara atá beartaithe do Ros an Mhíl an critéar cuí do chalafoirt Leibhéal 2.

Cúlra:

Ó 1999 i leith, tugadh roinnt tuairiscí agus staidéar anailíse sochair a rinneadh ar an togra seo chun críche. An tuairisc is déanaí: Rossaveel Harbour Deep Water Quay, Cost Benefit Analysis (DKM Economic Consultants, June 2017) a chríochnaíonn le “*We conclude that this is a worthwhile project which generates a significantly positive return for society*”. Tugann na tuairiscí uilig le fios go bhfuil gá leis an infreastruchtúr seo chun go bhforbrófaí an iascaireacht agus gníomhaíochtaí mara eile i gConamara Theas.

Na Fáthanna go bhfuil gá leis an bhforbairt seo:

Iascaireacht

- Is oll-ionad iascaigh cuain é Ros an Mhíl atá suite gar do na meánna is saibhre ó thaobh na hiascaireachta de in iarthar na hEorpa,
- Tá cosc ar bháid iascaigh atá os cionn 100 troigh teacht isteach sa gcalafort de bharr easpa bheartlann dhomhain mhara,
- Mura gcuirfeadh na seirbhísí domhain mhara seo ar fáil i Ros an Mhíl, leanfaidh an meath threochtúil ó thaobh iasc a thabhairt i dtír ann.

Turasóireacht

- An príomhchalafoirt le rochtain chuig Oileáin Árann agus téann os cionn 350,000 paisinéir tríd gach bliain.
- An ceathrú calafort is mó sa tír ó thaobh líon na bpaisinéirí de,
- Téann sé bhád farantóireachta chuig Oileáin Árann ar bhonn laethúil,
- Chuirfeadh beartlann dhomhain mhara i Ros an Mhíl ar chumas cúrsóirí teacht i dtír, áit a mbeadh paisinéirí in ann turais a thabhairt ar Chathair na Gaillimhe, Maigh Eo, Conamara agus Oileáin Árann,
- D’éascódh forbairt an Chalafoirt imeachtaí mara do thurasóirí, msh. iascaireacht farraige, seoltóireacht, tumadóireacht agus cairtíhostú.

Tráchtáil

- Scaip Coiste Pobail Ros an Mhíl suirbhé ar 50 comhlacht náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta atá i mbun gnó sa gceantar. Dúirt gach comhlacht a líon an suirbhé go gcuirfeadh forbairt ar chalafort domhain mhara i Ros an Mhíl ar a gcumas a gcuid oibríochtaí a leathnú agus fostaíocht bhreise a chruthú.
- Teastaíonn calafort domhain mhara sa gceantar chun tograí a bhaineann le dobharshaothrú agus fuinneamh mara a chur i gcrích.
- Iompar ar muir an bealach is éifeachtúil ó thaobh costas de maidir le bulciompar. Chuirfeadh calafort domhain mhara deiseanna ar fáil chun tionscail a tháirgeann bulclastas a fhorbairt sa gceantar BMW. Laghdaíonn an córas iompair seo an líon feithiclí earraí troma ar na bóithre.
- Bheadh cé dhomhain mhara lonnaithe in áit éifeachtach chun seirbhís a chur ar fáil d'oibreacha taiscéalaíochta i Rockall Trough, i ngarraithe na Coiribe agus an Chonga.

Seirbhísí

- Chruthódh forbairt Ros an Mhíl fostaíocht i dtionscail seirbhíse gaolmhara, msh. iompar, innealtóireacht, óstáin, bialanna agus seirbhísí mara srl.
- Chuirfeadh saoráid dhomhain mhara calafort sábháilte agus calafort a mbeifí in ann teacht i dtír ann i gcónaí ar fáil do sheirbhísí stáit a bheadh ag obair amach ó chósta an iarthair (An tSeirbhís Chabhlaigh, Soilse na hÉireann, Árthaigh taighde Fhoras na Mara agus seirbhísí tarrthála srl.)

Conclúid:

Is calafort sábháilte, foscúil agus nádúrtha é calafort Ros an Mhíl, atá suite 24 míle taobh thiar de Chathair na Gaillimhe. Tá formhór an talaimh thimpeall an chalafoirt faoi úinéireacht an stáit agus é sainithe d'fhorbairt thionsclaíoch. Déanfar uasghrádú tábhachtach ar an mbóthar a théann chomh fada le calafort Ros an Mhíl nuair a chríochnófar an cuarbhóthar timpeall ar Chathair na Gaillimhe. Tá na seirbhísí eile, uisce, cumhacht, leathanbhanda, srl, ann cheana féin.

Chuirfeadh forbairt an chalafoirt go mór le forbairt socheacnamaíoch Ghaeltacht Chonamara mar go gcuirfí obair ar fáil do phobal Gaeilge na háite. Cloíonn an fhorbairt ar Chalafort Ros an Mhíl le polasaithe spásúil agus forbartha tuaithe an Rialtais.

Tá tacaíocht reatha ag an togra seo ón Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara, An Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe, Fáilte Éireann, eagraíochtaí iascaireachta, eagraíochtaí próiseála éisc, oibreoirí na mbád farantóireachta agus Coiste Forbartha Pobail Ros an Mhíl.

Sínithe:

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