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To: National Planning Framework
Subject: Ireland 2040 Message from E. Hunter

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Name: E. Hunter

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Message:

CORK FLOOD DEFENCES

Good evening

This site has been recommended as an excellent forum for raising all issues re. OPW CORK CITY FLOOD DEFENCE PLAN.

Firstly , the FLOOD DEFENCE PLAN was on public display over Christmas and New Year in the City Library , (Dec 12th 2016 to Jan 17th 2017) - the busiest time of year for professionals and families and also at a time when the library traditionally closes for the holidays. I follow such matters and I am a regular library user and I missed the display. As such it appears the only forethought that went into `public consultation` by the OPW was how best to avoid it.

The consultation period has now been extended by OPW and this extension should be used by all city politicians to register concerns of general public re. OPW`s proposals and I am hoping this forum will assist in doing so.

In simple terms ; I am aghast at OPW`s proposed works.

In detail :

- the damage to CORK CITY`S heritage is too high and irreversible with no guarantee the changes will work and no guarantee the changes will not worsen the problems in the city centre.
- the damage to CORK CITY`S culture and tourist industry is too high and far-reaching when the changes have not been researched by a multidisciplinary team of scientists , (not just engineers) , for the best integrated solution on the river from source to sea

Critically ;

- just recently CORK CITY and WESTPORT were respectively voted the best city and best town in which to live in Ireland. These two locations have one thing in common ; their original quay walls.
- I live and work in CORK CITY and I was affected by the Cork`s Great Flood in 2009 and I do not want a single original quay-stone or quay-wall changed or removed in my name.

Dublin City has long lamented its loss of Europes longest Georgian Street in the 1960s and it has been said that such a thing could never happen again , not nowadays ? Cork City`s quay walls are some of the longest original Georgian quay walls in Europe.

I AM OPPOSING CORKS FLOOD DEFENCE PLANS ON ECONOMIC AND HERITAGE AND SCIENTIFIC GROUNDS.

A comparison must be made by City Hall re. the endless , excellent work around its Movement Strategy and that which is happening / being attempted by the OPW with this project ?

I believe that OPW's proposed works are a classic case of modern vandalism and have been driven by the ESB. I believe that if the OPW's works are undertaken then the only subsequent options will become to successively continue to heighten the city's quay-walls. I believe that ESB has acted and is acting as principal stake-holder in an effort to drive the OPW's plans in this regard and in the ESB's interests only.

IN REALITY , it is the decommissioning of Carrigadrochid Power Station in Cork County and the subsequent re-vitalisation of An Gearagh that is a viable option , (amongst many other multi-benefit options) , that must be undertaken firstly before any works within the city environs are even considered.

My concern re. this matter has increased and I think there needs to be a full , independent , design review of OPW PLANS. I also think the delayed public response , (including that of my own) , re. this plan is as a direct result of misleading advertising by the OPW which pitched the project as LOWER LEE FLOOD DEFENCES , (indicating estuarine works) , when in fact works are city centre based. I am hopeful you / your office may be able to assist achieving a full , objective , independent review of this project.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincere regards

E. HUNTER

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