



Submission
to
Dublin City Council
On
Draft Local Area Plan for
The Liberties

10th September 2008



1 Introduction

This document is a submission from the Inland Waterways Association of Ireland in relation Draft Local Area Plan for The Liberties.

2 Comments & Observations

IWAI supports the incorporation into the Draft Plan for the Liberties Area of a public space which would celebrate the connection with water:

- (1) The opening of the City Basin by Dublin Corporation in 1777 bringing a water supply from the River Morell to the city;
- (2) The establishment in 1780 of the Grand Canal terminus at James's Harbour adjacent to the Basin. This site was the focal point for canal traffic in Ireland for the next 180 years (until closure in 1960).

We would suggest that the restoration of water to the Grand Canal Harbour with appropriate sculptures, signs, and information panels could become a tourist attraction and would be a suitable foreground to the many listed buildings in the surrounding area.

Already there is a very large visitor attraction at the nearby Guinness Storehouse but it is necessary to "retain" some of these numbers through other linked sites through the Liberties area.

In particular, we support the return of water to the Grand Canal Harbour within the old harbour walls and retaining the circular shape at the original terminus of the canal. Any redevelopment of the Canal and Basin sites should respect the site outlines.

3 About IWAI

The Inland Waterways Association of Ireland (founded in 1954) is the largest body representing inland waterways boaters and enthusiasts in Ireland. The association has 4500 members organised in 20 branches across the island of Ireland. The majority of our members are boat owners and users and support the responsible use of all kinds of boats on our waterways. We organise over 200 events on and around Irish waterways each year. We operate a website (www.iwai.ie) devoted to information about our inland waterways. Our quarterly magazine ***Inland Waterways News*** is circulated free of charge to all members and to a wide range of other interested bodies.

4 Contact Details

For further details on this submission please contact:

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