

New Destinations in Cork Harbour



Meitheal Mara calls for the development of new destinations for on-the-water users of Cork Harbour and the River Lee within Cork city



The Marina



Blackrock



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The size and variety of the harbour makes it ideal for day or weekend cruising under sail or power. Destinations however are needed, where boats can berth and crew can go ashore in an attractive environment. The present list of such destinations is small and berthing and going ashore are beset with difficulty. A small berthing pontoon or RIB harbours could be easily and cheaply provided in a number of locations.

Just consider the harbour with pontoons for access and a welcome ashore at all of these places.. There would be more regulation, of course, to make it safe and comfortable for the large numbers afloat. A small price to pay for bringing enjoyment of the harbour to thousands more of the citizens of Cork.

The National Development Plan 2007 -2013 provides €75m. for Waterways development (see Appendix 2). The Lee Estuary & Cork Harbour are correctly defined as a 'waterway' as opposed to a 'watercourse' because of the level of interventions for navigation. The harbour should claim access to its share of these funds for development of social, recreational & tourism infrastructure. We need a new concept - not just a commercial harbour but also a world class site (even a World Heritage Site) with an important place in the funding hierarchy.

The modest investment required to upgrade access facilities at the locations listed overleaf would be a good start to this.

List of Destinations:

(Note: Developed destinations in bold; future destinations & facilities in italic)

No.	Location	Facility [existing or proposed]	Ashore
1.	Cork City Boardwalk	Existing pontoon; controlled access; bridge height restriction	Cafés; pub; hotel; city centre amenities & public transport
2.	Port of Cork	100m. pontoon; restriction; security; mooring fee; at contract stage	As above
3a.	Cork city – Cornmarket St.	End of Cornmarket St. at existing steps and slip; add pontoon	City centre with many amenities; Saturday street market
3b.	Cork city - Proby's Qy.	Existing limited access slip; controlled	City centre; on tourist route
4.	Quays Bar & Restaurant, Cobh	Private pontoon and ramp for patrons of pub; suitable for yachts, small craft	Restaurant/pub; access to town and amenities
5.	Cobh harbour [camber]	Slip and steps inside quay wall; restricted space; add pontoon	Cafés; restaurants; pubs; town with amenities & pub. transport
6.	Pota (zoo, house, gardens)	Provide pontoon and steps, or ramp	Public transport links; high quality tourist attraction(s);
7.	Haulbowline	Existing naval basin; restricted space Exist. camber; restricted access Provide pontoon and steps, or ramp	Naval base; restricted access; Maritime museum (proposed); organised visits
8.	Spike Island	Existing pier, steps; slip Provide pontoon and ramp	Proposal for visitor centre: Island open to public in 2010
9.	Monkstown	Exist. wooden pier and steps; sailing club slips & steps Provide pontoon & steps	Cafés; restaurants; pubs; sailing club; village amenities; Public transport links
10.	Crosshaven	Exist. town pier, with pontoon & steps	Cafés; restaurants; pubs; yacht club; marinas; village amenities; pub. transport links
11.	East Ferry (Great Island side)	Existing Marlogue marina with visitors' berths	Restaurant/pub; marina; woodland walks
12.	East Ferry (Mainland side)	Existing pier and slip; restricted space and depth; add pontoon	East Ferry Inn (pub)
13.	E.Ferry(Rathcoursey)	Provide landing facilities	
14.	Blackrock	Existing pier and slips Provide pontoon and ramp	Cafés; pubs; rowing club; village amenities; Sunday market
15.	Ballinacurra	Quay walls (private); restricted depth; Provide pontoon & steps	Pubs; village amenities; public transport links
16.	Aghada	Existing pier and slip; restricted space; Provide pontoon & steps	Pubs; village amenities; public transport links
17.	Whitegate	As above	As above
18.	Passage West	As above	As above
19.	Glenbrook	As above	As above; Cross-river ferry
20.	Ringaskiddy	Existing slip; add pontoon & steps	Ferry terminal; village 1km.; pub/restaurant; pub. transport links
21.	Carrigaloe	Existing pier and slip; restricted space; Provide pontoon & steps	Cross-river ferry; public transport links
22.	Belvelly	Provide landing facilities	As above
23.	Fountainstown	Provide landing facilities	Beach
24.	White's Bay	Provide landing facilities	Beach
25.	Ringabella	Provide landing facilities	Beach; pub/restaurant
26.	Glanmire	Bridge and tide restrictions Provide landing facilities	Village amenities; pub. transport links

Excerpt from National Development Plan 2007-2013 Waterways Sub-Programme

Some €75 million will be available over the period of the Plan to support the Waterways Sub-Programme. Restoring the navigation system remains a strategic priority. The waterways run through some of the less developed areas of the country and their effect in acting as regeneration catalysts for rural tourism has been demonstrated for example by the impact of restoration of the Erne navigation; the latter project also has an important all-island dimension. The inland navigations open up access to rural Ireland to boaters and to walkers, providing leisure opportunities for an increasingly urbanised population as well as tourists from outside Ireland, and providing opportunities for entrepreneurs, and thereby driving regeneration in towns and villages around the navigation routes. This helps the development of rural areas especially, enhances the attractiveness of Ireland to foreign tourists, provides facilities for leisure and outdoor activity for Irish people and helps preserve an important part of our economic and historical heritage.

The Waterways Sub-Programme will fund the following general activities:

- Putting in place both onshore and water based facilities to serve the local communities and the visitors to the waterways and to attract additional people to the existing network; and
- Investigating the feasibility of providing additional destinations and extending the navigations to provide social and recreational opportunities, opportunities for local regeneration and rural tourism



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Meitheal Mara is a maritime cultural and education centre and a registered charity.

Our youth projects based in Cork city centre utilise traditional boatbuilding and rowing to promote social and personal development in young people. We run courses to encourage young people back into education and training.