



Newsletter



Welcome to the first issue of the Bantry Inner Harbour Development newsletter. We will be keeping you informed on project updates, news and progress every quarter. Should you have any queries in the meantime or require any further information, we would always be delighted to hear from you. You can get in touch with Sinead Keary on the project team.

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Updates and news regarding the development will also be posted on www.bantrybayport.com

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Bantry Inner Harbour Development marks the start of the regeneration of the inner harbour and is in keeping with the total Inner Harbour Development scheme which was developed by the Bantry Bay Harbour Commissioners in 2012 and planning permission was granted in 2013.

Now being advanced by the Bantry Bay Port Company, the scheme will provide a more sheltered harbour environment and marina with increased water depth and improved pier facilities and new quayside area which will promote fishing and tourism activities in the Bantry area.

Phase 1 of the development will consist of the following principal elements:

- 20 berth Marina (quayside pontoons)
- Dredging to a depth of 4 metres at the Pier and 3 metres at the yacht berths, to allow vessels access to the inner harbour at all tides
- Remedial works to Town Pier (widening and extending)



- Construction of a new reclaimed amenity area adjacent to the Railway Pier, providing approx. 4,000m² for public recreational and amenity use
- Approx. 2,300m² quayside reclamation

A public tender process commenced in September 2015 and BAM Civil Ltd was appointed as contractor for these works. Construction is expected to commence in late February/early March 2016 and is due for completion in Q3 2017.

A full traffic and pedestrian mobility management plan will be implemented by the contractor.

Phase 1 of the project is expected to cost in the region of €8.5 million. Funding for the project has been made available from The Port of Cork Company, the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport and from previous funds carried over from Bantry Harbour Commissioners.

BENEFITS OF THE DEVELOPMENT

- Improved access and facilities on town pier will support existing businesses, promote and increase commercial activity in Bantry Harbour and Town
- Vessels will no longer lie aground when beside the pier
- Quayside Reclamation Area will provide an increased foot print for vehicular access and parking, making the pier safer

COMMUNITY NEWS

Bantry Blueway

Bantry Blueway, one of the first certified and approved Blueway trails in Ireland, was opened to the public in August 2015 and has already proven to be a popular attraction in the local area. Its ambition is to promote waterborne activities in Bantry Bay for both young and old to take to the water with their kayak or canoe and explore the trail which is set out on map boards around the route.



The trail meanders by the mussel farms in inner Bantry Harbour and views the existing mari-culture enterprise, showcasing the unique seasonal work done by the mussel farmers while applying their continuous rope systems in the production of mussels. The trail encompasses many other features including the coastal landscapes of Whiddy Island and the many historic sites and picturesque scenery that Bantry Bay has to offer. This project was developed by Bantry Bay Port Company in partnership with Waterways Ireland, the Irish Sports Council National Trails Office, Canoeing Ireland, South West Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG), BIM and Failte Ireland.



- New marina will provide berthage close to the town for local and visiting craft. It will also provide a critical kick-start for the marine leisure industry and will attract more marine tourism to the area
- Dredging will allow improved access to the Inner Harbour
- A new amenity area will be developed in consultation with Cork County Council and the local community

Bantry Bay Port Company Sponsorship

Throughout 2015, Bantry Bay Port Company was delighted to support many local events and initiatives including the West Cork Literary Festival, the Wild Atlantic Festival, the Irish Windsurfing Championships, the annual Blessing of the Boats ceremony and the fireworks display on New Year's Eve organised by Bantry Tourism.

Bantry Bay Port Company Schools Initiative

The first Bantry Bay Port Company Schools Initiative will be launching shortly. This initiative involves selecting a project theme for 5th class students, under the supervision of their class teacher, to gather information relating to Bantry Bay and its environs and displaying it in project form. The theme for 2016 is 'A Day in the Life of a Cruise Passenger Visiting Bantry Bay'. The theme aims to encourage children to explore the tourism aspect of Bantry Bay and its maritime history links, as well as learn about the wonderful visitor attractions the area has to offer. Some fantastic prizes will be on offer for participating 5th classes and all projects submitted will go on display in Bantry.



If you would like further information on how to participate in the Schools Initiative, please contact:

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