



Newsletter



Welcome to the second 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 Sara Mackeown on the project team.

PROJECT UPDATE

The Bantry Inner Harbour Development marks the start of the regenerating 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.

Following a public tender process in September 2015, BAM Civil Ltd was appointed as contractor for the works.

Construction works got underway in March 2016 with piling works to the quayside expected to commence in early May. Preparation works to the railway pier to accommodate the new breakwater pontoons commenced in April, with the breakwater pontoons already cast and expected to be delivered to site by May and installed early in June. It is envisaged that these pontoons will come into use in a temporary capacity for circa 4 months until such time as construction works to the head of the existing Bantry pier are complete. This will maintain ferry passengers access and egress to Whiddy Island whilst separating construction work activities from the general public.

Fishing activities will be accommodated at the existing Bantry Pier. Traffic management plans will be in place to minimise any disruption to traffic whilst works are under construction. The development is due for completion in Q3 2017.

The aim of the scheme is to provide a more sheltered harbour environment and marina with increased water depth and improved pier facilities which will promote fishing and tourism activities in the Bantry area.

Phase 1 of the development which has now commenced consists of the following principal elements:

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



- 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. 4,000 m2 for public recreational and amenity use
- Approx. 2,300m2 quayside reclamation for use as car parking

Captain Paul O'Regan, Bantry Bay Port Company Harbour Master said: 'Phase 1 of the project is expected to cost in the region of €8 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.'

There are great benefits of the development which are set out below:

- 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 increase foot print for vehicular access and parking, making the pier safer.
- New Marina will provide improved berthage for larger marine vessels. 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.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Bantry Bay Port Company's Annual Shore side Clean Up



The annual Bantry Bay clean-up got underway again this year with many volunteers on hand to help out. The clean-up which was established by the Bantry Bay Harbour Authority focusses on the beaches and inlets around the harbour, which helps to get the tourist season off to a great start.

During the clean-up many volunteers from the north side of the Sheep's Head, down the Beara peninsula to Castletownbere, all gave their time working to remove as much rubbish from the shoreline as possible.

Secretary of Bantry Fish Farming Co-op and Director of Bantry Bay Port Company, Mr Finian O'Sullivan said: 'Rubbish is a major nuisance, especially when it ends up in the sea and can then turn up anywhere and we are very grateful to our volunteers who help us, particularly the fourth-year students from Coláiste Pobail Bheantraí who turned out to lend a hand.'

The annual Clean up initiative is supported and encouraged by the Bantry Bay Port Company and organised through the Bantry Bay Harbour Forum with the support of Teddy Brown Cork County Council and BIM, who along with the Bantry Bay Port Company pick up the tab for the disposal of the collected material.

Bantry Bay Port Company Supports the West Cork Literary Festival 2016

Once again Bantry Bay Port Company is supporting the annual West Cork Literary Festival taking place in Bantry from 17th to 23rd July 2016. The festival promises to celebrate many incredible Irish and international writers across all genres, ensuring there is an event for all audiences. For further information or to see the programme, please visit

www.westcorkliteraryfestival.ie

Kealkill National School Wins 'Best Overall Project' in Bantry Bay Port Company's Primary Schools Initiative



Kealkill NS 'Best Overall Project' and Dromore NS 'Best Artwork'

Bantry Bay Port Company has announced Kealkill National School as winners of 'Best Overall Project' in this year's primary schools initiative. Local 5th class primary schools were invited to take part and submit a project based on the theme 'A Day in the Life of a Cruise Liner Visiting Bantry Bay'. Dromore National School won a prize for 'Best Artwork'.

The following schools took part in the Bantry Bay Port Company's first schools initiative; Dromore National School, Drimoleague National School, St Finbarr's National School Bantry, Our Lady of Mercy National School Bantry and Kealkill National School.

Commenting on the 'Best Overall Project', John Mullins Chairman of Bantry Bay Port Company said: 'Kealkill National School's project was very creative and visual. The standard was very high among the schools that participated, however Kealkill National School came up with a very clever way of highlighting the tourist attractions and places to visit for cruise passengers visiting the area. Their project was interactive and fun and we are delighted to announce them as overall winners.'

All of these schools who participated receive a boat trip to Garnish Island, compliments of Bantry Bay Port Company and each school will also receive a certificate of participation. Kealkill National School will be treated to an extra prize for winning 'Best Overall Project' and will get a kayaking trip along the Bantry Blueway for their class.

Mr Mullins said while the primary schools initiative is in the first year, they were very pleased five schools had taken part. 'We have run a similar initiative in the Port of Cork for the last eleven years and it works really well. It's a great way for primary school children to learn about the history and the economic benefit of their local harbour or port and what it brings to their town or region. We hope to continue to run this initiative and grow it over the years to come in Bantry.'