

Paula O'Toole (MARA)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday 26 May 2026 13:38
To: MARA Licence; [REDACTED]
Subject: Objection to granting a maritime licence: Ref MUL 240011
Categories: Paula

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Dear Sirs

No doubt you have been receiving many objections to this application and I would like to add my voice to the mix, which as a long-time resident of the Bremore townland, I feel compelled to do!

The idea of a “deep water port” for North County Dublin” has been on the stocks for some time, of course, originally surfacing some 20-odd years ago, just after the Dublin Port Tunnel was completed at a cost of nearly €1b. That proposal was fronted and marketed by PD Deputies Mary Harney and Fiona O’Malley and Senator Tom Morrissey. Their “pitch” was for a “New Heart for Dublin”, focusing on a residential development of the Dublin Port area, a by-product being a moving out of Ro-ro traffic to a “deep-water site” in “Bremore” (aka, Balbriggan”).

The pitch was delivered at Dublin Castle for business cognoscenti, not to locals in Balbriggan, of course. As then, so it is now..... it’s all about opening up adjacent lands for “development”, not only here in the Balbriggan hinterland, but also north of Drogheda (supported by Drogheda Port “interests” in tandem with Johnny Ronan of Treasury Holdings). Smoke and mirrors is still the order of the day! This realisation was apparent to me originally when I investigated the “deep water” aspect with the relevant government department at the time and was advised that there was NO DEEP WATER in the Bremore vicinity! Extensive dredging, with concomitant degradation of adjacent beaches (Balbriggan, Gormanston, Laytown, Bettystown, Mornington) would have to happen and would, of course, be an ongoing necessity to keep maritime channels open. This prospect is not exactly “enhanced” by the shortly foreseen construction of the North Irish Sea Array windfarm, proposed for just offshore this stretch of coastline.

The population growth in this area has been very large in latter years and the available coastal amenities and the significance of these has been accentuated during COVID. The original local residents always were aware of the environmental value of our coast, but now, by dint of having to recreate during the pandemic, everyone hereabouts is conscious of and in love with it! It would surely become a huge cause célèbre if this very questionable “development” were to be approved. Politicians in Fingal, Meath and Louth need to be very wary of the huge risks of opening up a war-front on this issue.... they will not be forgiven, there is no upside for them or the area.

We were hopeful that this idea of a port here had “gone away” for good, especially as the Dublin Port Authority does not support it, but “property interests” just keep “pushing the envelope” (sic). Such occasional journalistic involvement (e.g., David McWilliams) as we have seen over the years since the idea was originally mooted have been supportive of a port... one wonders why!

We need your help and vigilance in the matter.

Many thanks.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

cc., Dublin Inquirer

The Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 and the Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2022

Invitation for public submissions on an application for a maritime usage licence and an appropriate assessment

Bremore Port, Bremore Ireland Port Designated (BIPDAC) submitted an application to the Maritime Authority ("MARA") for a maritime usage licence under the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 to undertake Scheme environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation of an application under Part XXI of the Act of 2000. The licence is for a period of 7 years.

