

River Liffey Pontoon, Islandbridge

Easy to Read Summary

Where is the project?

The stretch of the river Liffey near Islandbridge, Dublin 8, east of the weir. The project will be built just off the north shore of an island directly beyond the weir.



Why do we need to build the Pontoon?

The stretch of the River Liffey near Islandbridge is home to over 13 rowing clubs, catering for just over 700 members. The clubs who are located along this stretch of the river have been established since the turn of the 20th century and form a valuable part of the community that animates the river. Traditionally most quality rowing courses would stretch up to 3000m – 5000, the available section at Islandbridge only stretches 1800m's. It is now proposed that a pontoon should be constructed directly beyond the weir at Islandbridge to allow for greater access to the eastern Liffey towards Ringsend.

Dublin City Council has a remit for providing sports and recreational opportunities and facilities within the city of Dublin. The construction of the pontoon will allow for greater and safer access for the rowing clubs in the area. With 6 clubs at full capacity utilising the 1800m stretch of river the pontoon will also help relieve the pressure on the river by allowing for the longer boats to access the eastern section of river towards Ringsend. This will free up more space in the current section for children, OAP's and beginners.



Figure 1 Beginner Community Rowing Lesson from the Municipal Rowing Centre, Dublin City Council

Rowing on the river Liffey is also tidal and therefore the pontoon will also allow for rowers who are based on the eastern stretch of the river access to the western section for longer rowing sessions. At present the window of opportunity for rowing in the eastern section is a maximum of 4 hours per day.

Currently gaining access to either sections of the river poses a health & safety concern with regards how rowers launch their boats from the island. The pontoon will allow for the rowers to gain access in a safer and more secure environment.

This project will also support partnerships with the local rowing clubs. Dublin City Council currently own and operate the Municipal rowing Centre which is one of the 6 clubs mentioned above. The project also serves to deliver improved facilities to citizens whilst promoting health and wellbeing opportunities



Figure 2 "Hers Outdoors" Community Event delivered by the Sports & Wellbeing Partnership, Dublin City Council.

Who did we contact during the design process?

Dublin City Council engaged with the local elected representatives, members of the local rowing community, internal Dublin City Council departments, Office of Public Works, National Monument Service, Inland Fisheries, Dublin and District Salmon Anglers Association. There was and is ongoing engagement via meetings, phone conversations and email to ensure all stakeholders the design of the pontoon and to address any issues.

What will it look like?

The pontoon will be one of a floating system within the River Liffey anchored to the existing island shore.

A new stone and concrete platform built out from the riverbank and connected to the pontoon by a new gangway.

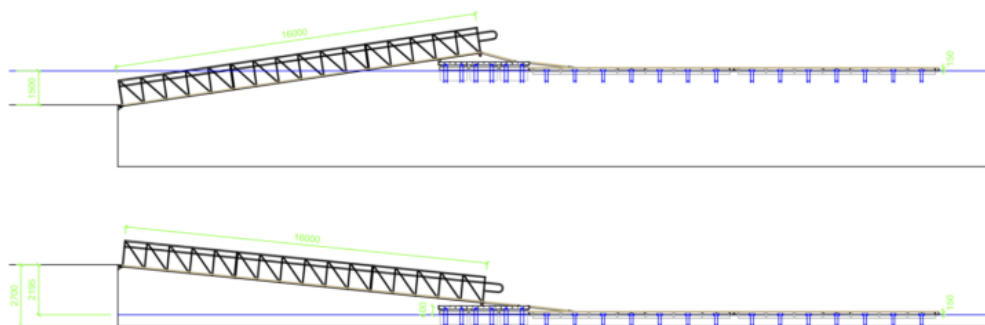


Figure 3 Sample of what the Pontoon will look like adjusting to the tides

The removal of vegetation on approach to the pontoon and installation of a new access walkway from the south upper River Liffey at the weir to the new pontoon located north on the lower River Liffey.

The old steel footbridge on the island will be refurbished and reinstated for safer access. Currently there are many trees which are not healthy on the island. The removal of poor existing vegetation, pruning of existing healthy trees and the replanting of 25 new high-quality trees and growing shrubs all native to Ireland will be carried out as part of the project.



Figure 4 Sample of the proposed tree planting

How do I comment on this project?

A submission or observation in relation to the proposed development in line with the correct planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development would be situated, may be made in writing to the Executive Manager Planning and Property Development Department, Dublin City Council, Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8 before 4.30pm on the 20/12/2023. Submissions or observations may also be made online on Citizen Space <https://consulations.dublincity.ie> before 23.59hrs on 20/12/2023.