

Kenmare area development proposal for water sports facilities at Kenmare pier

Background

The Kenmare pier and peninsula area to the west of the current pier has massive potential for the development of the area as a water sports venue. Currently this potential is vastly underdeveloped and this proposal outlines some of the potential options that might be considered for its future development.

The basis for this submission is to outline the potential of the location for use as a venue for sailing. Many of the requirements outlined can also serve other watersports such as rowing, sea-kayaking, swimming, triathlon etc as well as enhance the facilities in the area for other land based activities such as running, walking etc.

Kenmare Bay Sailing Club

Kenmare Bay Sailing Club (KBSC) is a small sailing club based in the calm tidal waters of the Kenmare bay. The club is approximately 10 years old and has a current membership of ~25 enthusiastic members. The club sails in the evenings during the summer months and caters for members in teenage years up to 70+. It offers a very welcoming and inclusive opportunity to sail in the Kenmare Bay area. KBSC is registered as a category 1 club with the Irish Sailing Association (ISA). The club is currently renting space at Star Outdoor Adventure Center which is located in Dauros, 6km from the town of Kenmare. While we are very grateful to Star Outdoors for allowing the club to use their private pier, the future growth of the club is severely restricted. Lack of space to accommodate additional boat storage and possible impact of club activities on the commercial activities at Star Outdoors are the primary reasons for a desire to find a new permanent home for the club in a dedicated watersports location.

Kenmare Peninsula Water Sports Development

The area to the west of the current pier known locally as the peninsula lands is the proposed location for the zoning and development of a public water sports amenity for the town. The requirements for a sailing club specifically would be as follows:

Sailing Club Requirements

- Sailing facilities for dinghy sailing. Boats are typically < 5m with max draft of 0.5m. The facility is really to allow access for smaller dinghies which are used for sail training, dinghy racing and social sailing which can be enjoyed by young and old alike.
- Boat launch area approx 10-20 m wide to allow launch & recovery of boats on waterline at high and low tides. Clearance of large stones/rocks in the area out to low

tide waterline would aid boat launches as well as providing an area for swimmers to access the water safely.

- Breakwater west of boat launch area to provide shelter when launching and recovering boats. The current pier at Kenmare has no protected launch area sailing dinghies and the area to the east of the current pier is too shallow and dries out at low tide.
- A nice additional feature would be a floating pontoon attached to the east side of breakwater to allow safe access at high/low tide for safety/support boats.
- Concrete apron to allow rigging of boats and transfer of boats from boat storage area to boat launch area.
- Secure boat storage area outdoors
- Clubhouse with toilets, changing rooms and class room or meeting room facilities.

Benefits/potential for local area

- Increased visibility of sailing and its potential in the area. Visibility for locals to see Dinghy sailing and access for locals to join.
- Adds new facility dedicated to watersports to the Kenmare Pier to enhance the town's reputation.
- Potential to market the beach area for the town to further enhance its appeal as a summer holiday destination.
- Marketing opportunity for Kenmare as a watersports/marine activity destination similar to Kinsale or Dingle.
- Implementation of the County development plan objectives outlined below.
- Breakwater would have the added benefit of making boat launches at the current pier less exposed to weather. The boat launch area would also be an easier access point for medical evacuation in the local marine area.
- Ability to sail unrestricted, any days we wish which we don't have at the moment.
- The development of the proposed area could also be in conjunction with several other clubs that operate in pier/peninsula area.
- Rowing club - potential to develop a shared clubhouse area which could be utilised by both clubs
- Athletics club - potential for storage of athletics club equipment in the secure clubhouse area and use of meeting rooms for various club meeting activities
- Swim club - potential to use changing rooms and toilet facilities for running various swim events
- Triathlon club - potential for local triathlon events to use the changing rooms/toilets and slip area for swim events

Current



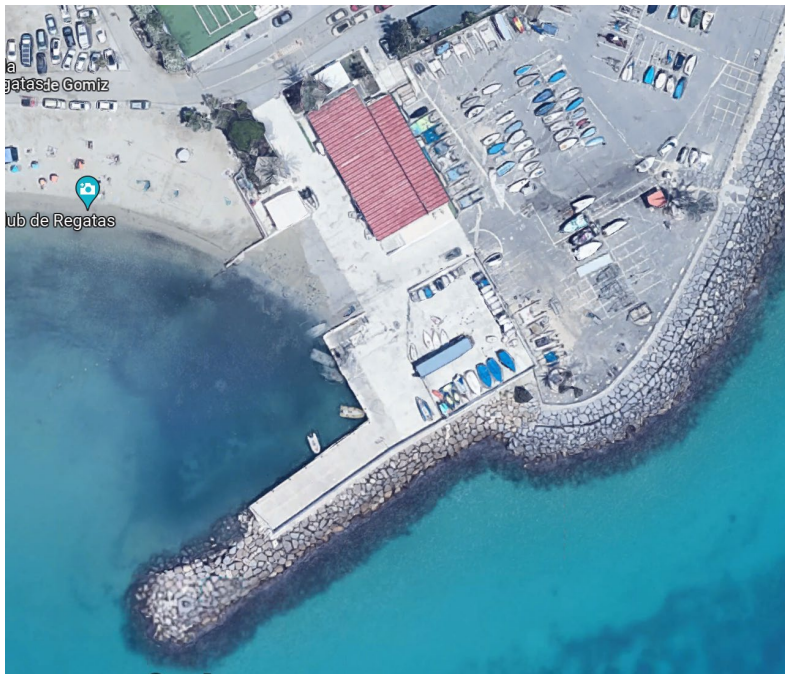
Proposed



Examples of similar facilities



Breakwater with Floating pontoon (Dubai)



Breakwater, Boat launch area, Club house, Boat storage (Alicante)

Kerry County Development Plan Tourism Objectives

KSBC is but one local club that could utilise these amenities if they were developed as part of an approach by local government to develop facilities and tourism in the area. The following objectives could be met if a dedicated watersports amenity was developed in the peninsula lands to the west of Kenmare pier.

Adventure Tourism

It is an objective of the Council to:

KCDP 10-33 Promote and facilitate the sustainable development of outdoor activities, in appropriate locations, such as walking, rambling, cycling, land and sea-based activities with specialised centres and facilities in association with Munster Technological University, Fáilte Ireland, National Trails Office, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Local Development Companies, Sport Ireland, Healthy Ireland, Local Development Companies, Kerry Education and Training Board and other relevant national and County based departments and agencies.

Water-Based Tourism

It is an objective of the Council to:

KCDP 10-44 Sustainably promote, in co-operation with the various statutory and relevant organisations, at appropriate locations the more extensive use of the coastal strip for such activities as touring, sight-seeing, walking, pony trekking as a sustainable tourism and recreational resource for the residents of County Kerry and other visitors.

KCDP 10-45 Promote opportunities for enterprise and employment creation in marine tourism where it can be demonstrated that the development will not impact negatively on the marine environment.

KCDP 10-50 Facilitate the sustainable development of improved access and associated facilities to the waterways and islands of Kerry.

KCDP 10-53

Support the provision of appropriately designed and located toilet and changing facilities at blue flag beaches in the county and at other locations subject to need assessment and environmental compatibility.

Contact

The members of Kenmare Bay Sailing Club would be happy to engage in a consultation on development of the area outlined in this proposal.

Kenmare Bay Sailing Club

Contact Details available on

<https://www.facebook.com/kenmaresailingclub/>



Kenmare Sailing Club

May 4 · 🌐



Kenmare Sailing Club will be offering a Try Sailing experience at Star Outdoor Adventure Centre on June 8th at 6 pm. If you've always wanted to try sailing, or have sailed before and would like to join us, please register via the link below. Spaces are limited, so register early!

