



Clyde Docks Preservation Initiative

Protecting and Promoting the Evolving Maritime Heritage of the Tidal River Clyde

Comment on Planning Application

18/03336/PPP | Erection of mixed use development comprising extension to Exhibition and Conference Centre (including Exhibition facilities, Conference facilities and associated Banqueting facilities, foyer/walkway/reception upgrade and extension, external support workshops and offices), Hotel, Energy Centre, associated parking facilities and public realm works and landscaping. | The SECC Congress Road Glasgow G3 8YW

Clyde Docks Preservation Initiative wish to make the following comments in respect of the above planning application:

We are broadly supportive of and would welcome the expansion of the exhibition centre facilities (with certain caveats) and do not object in principle to the application but we would seek and recommend a number of assurances in relation to the following before the proposal reaches detailed planning stages:

1. Car parking provision should be of a scale and arrangement that would encourage use of public transport by users of the site rather than travelling to it by private car. We believe there is already adequate car parking serving this area of Glasgow and would seek a Section 75 Agreement in respect of any improvements that could be made to public transport links.
2. At the waterfront / quayside area of the proposed expansion, we would like to see a greater emphasis on water-based activity and use of the river for recreation, transport and mooring. Not just a quay railing where the river is little more than an incidental feature of the landscape. There should be provision for any future roll out of river buses/taxis on the Clyde to serve this site directly as part of a network of landings.
3. With several hotels already existing at this area of the waterfront the need for an additional hotel at this site should be considered carefully by the council.
4. **We would like to see more focus on the maritime history of the site as well as structured connections with other developments on the waterfront – e.g. Pacific Quay, SWG3, potential for reindustrialisation of the Govan Graving Docks, Govan-Partick bridge, etc.**

CDPI is a research, networking and advocacy social enterprise concerned with the protection and promotion of maritime heritage along the River and Firth of Clyde.

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5. The waterfront in Glasgow as a whole is disconnected with no overarching strategy for its development. The opportunity here is for the SEC to take a lead in promoting more connected use of the city's waterfront and any planning conditions should be applied so as to encourage and support this rather than consider this site in isolation. There is opportunity to develop a walking and tourist trail around the Clyde in the Glasgow area and a successful delivery of this development proposal (with appropriate planning conditions and changes/clarifications at the detailed planning stage) can make a significant contribution to that.

6. More should be done to mark the history and heritage of the industrial dockland area that once occupied this site for example visual art installations, a trail of exhibits and landscaping to demark where the dock basin once existed. While not necessarily practical or feasible on cost grounds we would recommend that part of the former dock basin could be re-excavated and included as a water feature. However this would not need to be to the original depth of the former dock basin or cover a particularly large area. This has not been delivered in any previous phased of development of the exhibition centre area but with greater interest growing in Clyde maritime heritage we believe the SEC would benefit from the tourism potential and enhancement this would make to the campus as an integral feature.

7. In general we believe the proposal is appealing in its overall design and will improve and enhance the amenity of the area. Our main concern would be the inclusion of facilities that (in contrast to those existing) would encourage extensive use of and footfall at the site late into the evening throughout the year and make best possible use of the waterfront location as a cultural hub. This would include provision for affordable cafes/bars, pop-up retail and other opportunity for small businesses and social enterprises to occupy the site. This could draw the cultural appeal of Finnieston and the already successful network of popup events and activity (taking SWG3 and Barras Art and Design as exemplars) to a key area of the City's waterfront on an ongoing basis. This would make a small but important contribution towards reconnecting Glasgow with its river.

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