



Picture: Peter Bijsterveld Photography

PRESS RELEASE

12.09.22

Cheekpoint Boat Owners Association.

The Cheekpoint Boat Owners Association (CBOA) are delighted to announce the completion of works to install a Community Pontoon at Cheekpoint, Co. Waterford. The 63M X 3M pontoon ensures **safe access** for local Watercraft users to the Waterford Estuary. The large tidal range at Cheekpoint Quay restricted access to Watercraft solely via vertical steel ladders or the original stone steps which can prove difficult for users, particularly so for those with mobility issues. The new Community Pontoon provides access via a 20M X 3M wheelchair accessible gangway with no steps or ladders to contend with, vastly improving safe access for all. The pontoon also provides 24/7 access to the estuary from Cheekpoint which was previously limited to a timeframe of just a few hours depending on tidal state. This 24/7 access is now fully available to all emergency services as required.

Following a local Public Meeting in September 2018, a Committee was appointed to appraise the feasibility of a Community Pontoon with the goal of improving the safety aspect of embarking/disembarking Watercraft at Cheekpoint.

The proposed Project was presented by that Committee to a Public Meeting in November 2018 following which, the formation of the CBOA took place in January 2019. The CBOA Committee immediately set about achieving the necessary regulatory requirements (Planning Permission and Foreshore Lease) and securing funding for the project. The pontoon was completed on Friday 9th September 2022 and shall be officially opened on Saturday 17th September at 12pm by Mayor of Waterford City and County Council Cllr John O'Leary.

The CBOA would like to gratefully acknowledge the huge support received from the Residents and Community of Cheekpoint and Faithlegg without whom, this Project would not have been possible. There are many individuals, too numerous to mention here, whom freely gave their time, expertise and support for which we are eternally indebted. Your help enabled CBOA to deliver an exceptional amenity for our local Community. CBOA also acknowledges the great backing and assistance received from local Community Groups, Cheekpoint & Faithlegg Development Association, Cheekpoint Community Gain Fund Committee and the invaluable advice and assistance from Waterford City & County Council and Port Of Waterford. We also gratefully acknowledge the vital funding received from Waterford LEADER Partnership CLG, Tomar Trust, Cheekpoint Community Gain Fund and Port of Waterford. Cheekpoint Community Pontoon shall be managed and operated by the local voluntary Committee of the CBOA to provide safe access for local Watercraft while also catering for some short term visiting craft by advance arrangement. Please contact the CBOA through our website with any queries - www.cboa.ie

STATEMENT ENDS