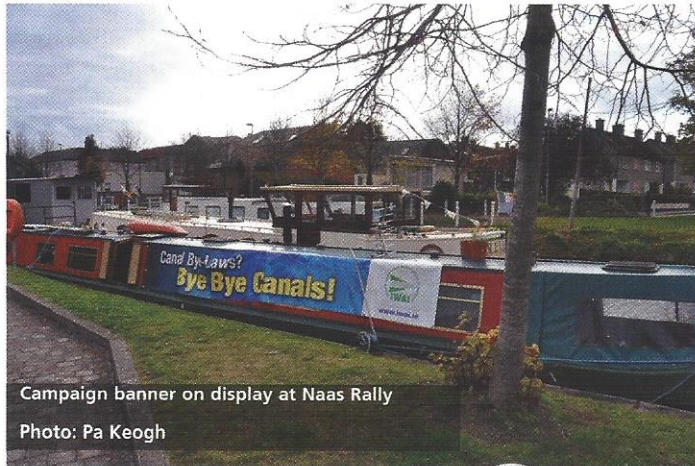




IWAI AT WORK

CANAL BYE-LAW CAMPAIGN



Campaign banner on display at Naas Rally

Photo: Pa Keogh

Minister Heather Humphreys TD has confirmed, in response to Parliamentary Questions, that Waterways Ireland has submitted a revised set of draft bye-laws to her Department, Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and that it is currently being reviewed by Department Officials.

The Minister advised that when that process is completed, the matter will be referred to her, as

Minister, with recommendations for consideration and final decision.

The Minister also confirmed her commitment to affording the significant number of interested Deputies and Senators an opportunity to discuss the proposals with her prior to making a final decision on the draft bye-laws.

IWAI continue to seek a meeting with the Minister to discuss the draft bye-laws.

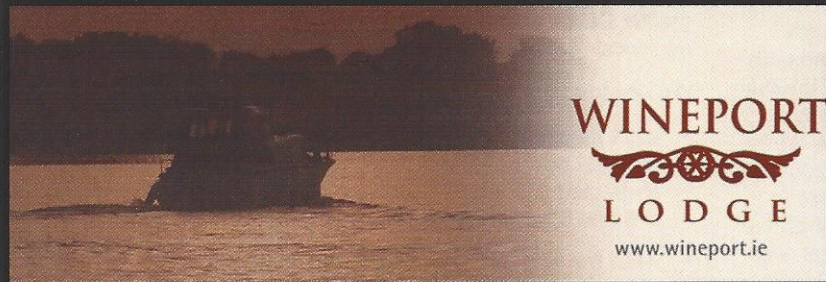
A section has been added to the IWAI Bye-laws Campaign page on the IWAI website listing the significant number of PQ's that have been raised on this important issue. See www.iwai.ie/byelaws/parliamentaryquestions.php for further details. IWAI have been heartened by the political and public support for the campaign to date and this continued during the rolling campaign at boating rallies and festivals that took place since the last IWN edition in Tullamore and Naas.

Speaking at the IWAI Council Meeting in Mullingar on 8 November Carmel Meegan President of IWAI reiterated the importance of proper Canal Bye-laws and called on the Minister and her Department not to impose bye-laws that will impede developing the tourism potential

of the canals to the detriment of the local communities and economies. She highlighted that the three navigations of the Grand and Royal Canals and River Barrow total 336 kilometres, issues have arisen in less than a handful of places due to location. The length of waterway affected by these areas is a couple of kilometres, less than 1%, yet byelaws that will be detrimental to 99% are being introduced to address issues in less than 1% of the system. President Meegan noted that some may view aspects of these bye-laws on their own as reasonable, but they impose a huge burden and risk collectively, with no evidence presented publicly as to what risk analysis has been done in relation to these proposals or why only one user group is being targeted for payment.

John Dolan

WINEPORT WINNING SHOT



Artistic merit, the technical quality of the photography and the interest of the subject will be taken into account. Please ensure your name and contact details are attached. The judges decision is final.

Late September in Richmond Harbour

Send entries to editor@iwai.ie or by post to
Inland Waterways News
2 Kylemore Park, Taylor's Hill, Galway

Denis Baker
wins the Midweek VIP Experience which
is an overnight stay for two people
including Breakfast with a half
bottle of bubbly, flowers and chocolates
in the room on arrival.

Available Sunday through Thursday.

