

Dear Stuart,

The Ballylongford Enterprise Association along with Tarbert Development Association has been trying to promote the development of the Tarbert / Ballylongford landbank for a number of years. This landbank consists of over 600 acres on the Shannon estuary and is located between the villages of Tarbert and Ballylongford.

Over fifty years ago the state purchased these lands, realising its potential for its development as the largest deep water port in Europe. A steel smelter was the project envisaged.

Further lands were acquired in the late 70's when an oil refinery was proposed.

Ten years later with no development the IDA wanted to sell the land back to the farmers. This was opposed by the local development organisations who succeeded in having the land transferred to Shannon Development.

In the last 22 years there have been proposals for a zinc smelter, horticulture, acid plant, leisure complex, a freedom ship and more. Leisure projects were rejected by the government as it stated that the land is a strategic deep water site, of importance to the nation as a whole, and would only be used for marine related heavy industry.

The LNG proposal is the most viable and realistic of all proposals.

Five years have passed since the announcement of this proposal. An application for planning permission was lodged in September 2007 and granted six months later. Foreshore and other licences and tests were applied for and granted.

As a community group we attended planning and other oral hearings, the High Court in Dublin and travelled to Europe in support of this project for this site. The last hurdle is the CER and we are worried that this may be like *Beechers Brook*.

Since 2006 Shannon LNG has been in discussion with the CER. The possible €10m annual payment by LNG towards the upkeep of the Interconnector is a complete turnaround in policy since this project commenced.

Why was this policy changed now, five years into the project ? Who benefits from this change?

Previously, users paid for the privilege of Interconnection, now it is proposed that newcomers will subsidise this Interconnection.

At present there is no competition for the supply of gas into Ireland. Price increases of 22% are likely this year. We need competition in this market both for the benefit of the consumer and the tax payer. Obstacles should not be placed in the way of competition which Shannon LNG could provide.

The proposed Shannon LNG Development would also provide an alternative supply source which increases the security of gas supplies for the state.

Not only do we have no development on the Tarbert / Ballylongford landbank for the last fifty years we do not have any gas grid in Kerry either. We are concerned that this proposed €10m annual tariff will deprive us of both.

On a local level the proposed development is not only welcome but vital to the future of life in our towns and villages, it is our only hope. It has the ability to generate 100 million euro annually in the local community. We are fearful that the current delays in the CER process and the proposed astronomical levy will sound the death knell on our community.

Yours faithfully,

Noel Lynch.
Chairman, Ballylongford Enterprise Association.