



Funafloat Project Update

The new National Children's Hospital Outreach Team is working with Dublin City Council on a plan to upgrade the linear park along the line of the former Grand canal branch linking Grand Canal harbour to Rialto. Part of the plan involves the construction of a **kayak launch area at the intersection between the park and the circular line at Griffith Bridge, Inchicore**. A further element in this project, which involves IWAI Dublin as project leaders, relates to procurement of a powered disabled access craft to support on-the-water activities by the less physically able and other target groups, including Youth at Risk.

While the project was formally initiated in April 2020, due to the Coronavirus lockdown it was only later in the Summer that we made initial contact with potential project partners. Also, at this time we introduced the project to representatives from the Canalside regeneration projects around Dublin 8. We also became involved in the ground-breaking *Mapping Green Dublin* project lead by UCD Geography Dept which has been a great help in terms of its wider focus on environmental improvements around Dublin 8.

A key task for us is to identify a design of powered disabled access craft that meets users' requirements in terms of access and safety. At this stage we now have good knowledge of the market, with at least two designs of boat that can meet our needs - but at widely varying price points.

We've enjoyed a lot of support on technical safety and design issues from Ciaran Murphy of Irish Sailing Association who has very generously shared his knowledge and experience as ISA Disabled access officer.

Over the Summer we arranged an outing on a *Coulam Wheelyboat V20* in Kinsale harbour courtesy of Jon Hynes at the Kinsale Outdoor Education Centre, which was a hugely impressive experience. This is a custom designed disabled access vessel built by Coulam Boatyard UK to a design developed by the Wheelyboat Trust.

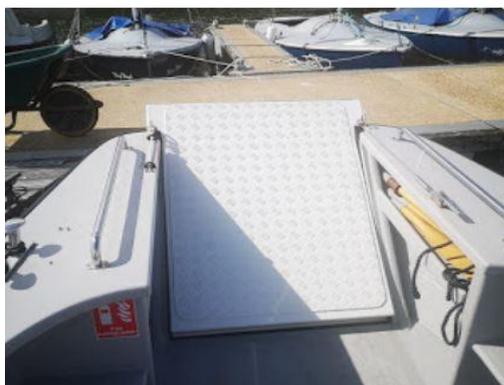
Following on from this we had intended to arrange a practical demonstration of this boat in Grand Canal Dock for local friends and supporters. Unfortunately, lockdown has once again raised its head and, as the situation remains volatile, we have reluctantly decided to postpone this activity until Spring 2021.

As for the future, the main task currently is to draft and submit to the NCH team a report on storage and launch facilities needed to support on the water activities at Goldenbridge/Inchicore.

As soon as circumstances allow, we would also welcome an opportunity to present our plans to key local groups, and particularly to representatives of the Regeneration Boards at Dolphin House, St Theresa's Gardens and Fatima Mansions/Herberton Village.



Wheelyboat Operated by Kinsale OED



Ramp Detail Kinsale OED Wheelyboat



Pioneer Multicraft Alternative design for Disabled access craft

Weblinks:

Wheelyboat Trust UK: <https://www.wheelyboats.org/>

Coulam Boats: <http://www.coulam.co.uk/coulamv20/>

Kinsale OED: <https://www.kinsaleoec.com/inclusion>