

## Co. Sligo Surf Club Summary 21st March 2018

Hi everyone,

And Thank You to everyone who took the time to join us on the 21st of March.

During the meeting we gave a brief update of all of the positive progress being made in readiness for the upcoming season. We covered of the need for volunteers, sponsorship opportunities, increased focus on safety and the opportunities to create a more social club with more community involvement.

The main focus of discussion was around the draft version of the feasibility study for the proposed new Centre which ended in a vote to accurately capture the mood and position of the club in relation to the work already being completed for the new building project and potential relationship with Failte Ireland.

Therefore, the summary below attempts to capture the key issues we as a club and community see as needing to be addressed for us before we can fully support the move.

**Key reasons why the group voted to stay:**

**Feasibility Study:**

1. The club had no confidence in the figures provided in the report.
2. The document was not clear on how to essentially protect the club from continued preference being given to private, commercial businesses in the new building (, which simply replicated the situation the club is presently in, in the existing building).
3. There was no clear strategy in place on how any transition would be managed over what is expected to be a 3+ year process.
4. There is no strategy or process, or clear guideline in place on how the new building would be managed on a strategic, or day to day level. The club has repeatedly requested for this key component to be addressed as is critical to safe guarding the role and responsibilities of the club in the new building. This is missing today and we are only repeating the same mistakes without this critical piece of work.

**The building:**

1. There is nothing in writing stating what part of the building would be allocated to the club, anywhere. There is a rational fear that the club's role in the new building is the least important of any of the stake holders.
2. There is an underlying assumption that the 'change facilities' in the new building will be open to the public with little or no consideration towards the club and community. Its bad enough the club cannot properly access the existing facilities today. The future arrangement is

even worse for our kids, and all kids in the community. Since this key issue has been highlighted to everyone, nothing has been done in writing to ally the club's apprehensions.

3. The new building will have multiple private commercial parties. All evidence and learnings from the existing building show this is a recipe for disaster. We have advised on key learnings from the existing building and T-Bay in Waterford but this has not been addressed.
4. There is a grave concern that there is no leadership in the report and in how or who would drive this project and construction.

General issues:

1. There has been no clarification between club, community and commercial interests in relation to the decision making process. We have commercial interests attempting to represent the community when commercial interests are being placed as more important than the club and community. This simply has to end.
2. Today two businesses dominate the existing building at the expense of club and community. The new building simply looks like a continuation of this and places the club and community in an even worse situation.
3. There is a genuine fear that potentially the club, if asked to move will be left basically without a home as we believe that Voya require vacant possession before they assign the ownership of the new site over.
4. The issue that Voya have rescinded their offer has hit everyone's confidence with regard to the project - even if it is just a negotiating piece.

It is fair to say that there is a degree of hesitation within the club, based on the past experience of how the club has been supported in the existing building.

The response was based on the information captured in the draft version of the feasibility study. Now, since the meeting and the feedback we have given, work is ongoing to address the key issues. The club is just one of the stakeholders involved in the decision to proceed with the new building and there are a lot of decisions and factors which are out of the club's control.

A final vote is expected to be made by the Maritime Board on behalf of the council next week and we will keep everyone informed.

*Thanks,  
The Committee*