

## Bea Claydon

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**Subject:** FW: Removal of sand Boyne Estuary Laytown races Comm.

-----Original Message-----

From: [seacottage@eircom.net](mailto:seacottage@eircom.net) [mailto:[seacottage@eircom.net](mailto:seacottage@eircom.net)]

Sent: 02 May 2012 11:50

To: Wexford Receptionist

Cc: [richieculhane@hotmail.com](mailto:richieculhane@hotmail.com); Kevin Coleman; [karfiona@gmail.com](mailto:karfiona@gmail.com)

Subject: Removal of sand Boyne Estuary Laytown races Comm.

FOR Attention of TARA HIGGINS

Hi Tara

I am a committee member of Laytown Strand Races We are the only official horse racing event run on a beach in Europe Our meeting in Sept is run under the auspices of the Irish Turf Club and is part of the racing calender Racing on the strand at Laytown has been taken place for over 150 years

As you know Drogheda Port Authority has applied for a license to remove dredged sand from the mouth of the Boyne This material would then be sold on commercially

We the Comm. of Laytown Strand Races are opposed to this plan and we set out below our objections

1) Meath Co Council has been concerned for some years at the degree of erosion along the 8KM stretch of coastline under their control and they have commissioned a number of reports assessing the problem The most recent being from RPS Consulting Engineers gave several options for the replenishment of the beach

None of these options involved the removal of such vast quantities of sand, annually, as envisaged in the application from the Drogheda Port Authority

2) The removal of 250,000 cubic meters of sand annually is corporate vandalism at it worst It has taken thousands of years to create the ecosystem which is the beach at Bettystown and Laytown The proposal to remove sand which can never be replaced is lunacy

3) The RPS report speculates that currently the natural rate of erosion "will make it increasingly difficult to find a safe area for horse racing to continue". This was before this proposal to exacerbate the rate of sand loss by the Port Authority. In fact the report suggested that all dredged sand should be offloaded at sea so as to allow the natural drift from South to North of the tides could relay this sand and naturally replenish the beaches

4) This Beach is a precious natural amenity for a population of in excess of 24000 who live locally and it cannot be destroyed by an act of commercial greed

Sincerely Hugh Leech