

## **Media Release**

### **Contracts signing signals the beginning of a park at Haulbowline**

**July 10<sup>th</sup> 2017**

Today marks a significant milestone in the redevelopment of Haulbowline Island with a contract signing to transform the East Tip on Haulbowline Island into a public recreational amenity.

Mayor of the County of Cork, Cllr Declan Hurley warmly welcomed this signing and noted the importance of the remediation of Haulbowline Island, “This project is hugely important from a local and national level. We have come a long way with this and I am in no doubt that we will have a fantastic park for the people of Cork but will also offer another jewel in the crown for Cork tourism.”

Haulbowline Island is the base of the Irish Naval Service and was the location of Ireland’s only steelworks which operated on the Island between 1939 and 2001. Waste from the steel production process was deposited on the Spit Bank, a shallow sand spit extending eastwards from the Island, from the early 1960’s.

In August 2011, Cork County Council, acting as Agent to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, embarked on a programme for the rehabilitation of the East Tip, Haulbowline Island, Co. Cork. The Council have since been addressing the legacy associated with the disposal of steelwork’s waste on a sand spit in Cork Harbour over this 40 year period.

The Council have been committed to ensuring that the remedial solution and amenity development are completed in accordance with current relevant national and international best practice and guidance.

Appointed contractors, PJ Hegarty and Sons Director Seán Carrigy spoke of the importance of this project, “P J Hegarty & Sons are delighted to be involved in this prestigious project, and we look forward to working with Cork County Council and all stakeholders in transforming this site into a valuable amenity which will bring long term environmental and economic benefits to Cork Harbour.”

Also speaking at the signing, Deputy Chief Executive of Cork County Council Declan Daly highlighted the significance of this milestone, “This project has been many years in the making and is the result of a tremendous amount of work. The redevelopment will be an enormous benefit to local communities and will join the ever increasing number of amenities within Cork Harbour.”

These sentiments were reiterated by Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Michael Creed TD, who commented, “I am very pleased to be here today for the contract signing for these crucial works to remediate the East Tip site at Haulbowline Island. This phase of works marks the start of a significant period of construction activity on the island and a major step towards the transformation of the East Tip into a great asset for the communities and other stakeholders located around Cork Harbour and beyond.”