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Plans for sailing academy move on

By HYWEL TREWYN

PLANS for an ambitious £7.8m sailing academy moved forward after councillors gave it their blessing.

The Welsh National Sailing Academy and Events Centre at Hafan Pwllheli marina could generate £1.6m income annually, creating 22.5 new jobs and support an extra nine.

The centre would bring benefit to the economy by providing education and training facilities and strengthen links with the town centre as well as promote and encourage the use of Welsh.

It could hold regatta and championship events, elite dinghy squad training, youth training and events, visitor berthing and others.

Gwynedd council board would need to apply for over £4m of capital funds for the facility, as well as up to £3.5m of European funds with the council fronting up the remaining £250,000.

The plans would mean building 150 extra berths for visitors, as well as improving links between the town and the waterfront.

Pwllheli, which has 400 berths at present, is one of Britain's top sailing venues, along with Weymouth and Largs in Scotland but it lacks facilities for sailing events.

Gwynedd Council's Development Scrutiny Committee were generally supportive but found additional aspects which will be considered when the report is presented to the Council's Board in the near future.