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## **Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2019**

### **Planning Authority: Cork County Council**

**Application** for permission under section 4 of the Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act 2016, in accordance with plans and particulars, lodged with An Bord Pleanála on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of December 2019 by 1 Ash Grove Land Limited care of Coakley O'Neill, NSC Campus, Mahon, County Cork.

#### **Proposed Development:**

A planning permission for a strategic housing development at Cluain Ard, Ringmeen, Cobh, County Cork.

The proposed development will consist of a strategic housing development for

(a) 237 number residential units comprising:

- 183 number houses (49 number two-bed townhouses; 60 number three-bed townhouses; 25 number three-bed semi-detached/townhouses; 48 number three-bed semi-detached houses and one number four-bed detached house);
- 54 number apartments/duplexes (12 number one-bed apartments; 15 number two-bed apartments; and 27 number two-bed duplex apartments).

(b) a crèche, all associated ancillary site development and landscaping works, to include diversion of power lines, bin stores, bicycle and car parking, ground works and retaining structures, foul drainage, stormwater drainage, water supply, service ducting and cabling, public lighting, and all boundary treatments.

- (c) The proposed development is to be accessed via the existing Cluain Ard Estate to the south, as well as existing and proposed accesses off the public road to the east and north of the proposed development site. Upgrades are also proposed to the L-2994-0 and the L-7015-0, including road widening and shared footpath/cyclepath connections. The proposed development also provides for future pedestrian/cyclist connectivity to the lands to the west. The proposed development will also consist of the signalisation of the Tay Road/R624 Cobh Road (Coast Road) junction.

## **Decision**

**Grant permission for the above proposed development in accordance with the said plans and particulars based on the reasons and considerations under and subject to the conditions set out below.**

## **Matters Considered**

In making its decision, the Board had regard to those matters to which, by virtue of the Planning and Development Acts and Regulations made thereunder, it was required to have regard. Such matters included any submissions and observations received by it in accordance with statutory provisions.

## **Reasons and Considerations**

In coming to its decision, the Board had regard to the following:

- (a) the policies and objectives set out in the Cork County Development Plan 2014;
- (b) the policies and objectives set out in the Cobh Municipal District Local Area Plan 2017;
- (c) the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness, 2016;
- (d) Urban Development and Building Heights, Guidelines for Planning Authorities, prepared by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in December 2018;

- (e) the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) issued by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government in March 2013;
- (f) the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas, 2009;
- (g) the Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments Guidelines for Planning Authorities issued by the Department of the Housing, Planning and Local Government in March 2018;
- (h) the Planning System and Flood Risk Management guidelines (including the associated Technical Appendices) issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in November 2009;;
- (i) the nature, scale and design of the proposed development;
- (j) the pattern of existing and permitted development in the area;
- (k) the planning history within the area;
- (l) the submissions and observations received, and
- (m) the report of the Inspector.

### **Appropriate Assessment Screening**

The Board completed an Appropriate Assessment screening exercise in relation to the potential effects of the proposed development on designated European sites, taking into account the nature, scale and location of the proposed development within a zoned and serviced urban area, the Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment document submitted with the application, the Inspector's report, and submissions on file. In completing the screening exercise, the Board adopted the report of the Inspector and concluded that, by itself or in combination with other development in the vicinity, the proposed development would not be likely to have a significant effect on any European site in view of the conservation objectives of such sites, and that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not, therefore, required.

## **Environmental Impact Assessment Screening**

The Board completed a preliminary examination in relation to environmental impact assessment of the proposed development and had regard to the environmental impact assessment preliminary screening determination carried out by the Inspector.

Having regard to:

- (a) the nature and scale of the proposed development on an urban site served by public infrastructure,
- (b) the absence of any significant environmental sensitivities in the area,
- (c) the location of the development outside of any sensitive location specified in article 109(3) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended),

the Board concluded at preliminary examination stage that, by reason of the nature, scale and location of the subject site, the proposed development would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment. The Board decided, therefore, that an environmental impact assessment report for the proposed development was not necessary in this case.

## **Conclusions on Proper Planning and Sustainable Development**

The Board considered that, subject to compliance with the conditions set out below, the proposed development would constitute an acceptable residential density in this suburban location, would not seriously injure the residential or visual amenities of the area, would be acceptable in terms of urban design, height and quantum of development and would be acceptable in terms of pedestrian and traffic safety. The proposed development would, therefore, be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

## Conditions

1. The proposed development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the plans and particulars lodged with the application, except as may otherwise be required in order to comply with the following conditions. Where such conditions require details to be agreed with the planning authority, the developer shall agree such details in writing with the planning authority prior to commencement of development or as otherwise stipulated by conditions hereunder, and the development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the agreed particulars. In default of agreement, such issues may be referred to An Bord Pleanála for determination.

**Reason:** In the interest of clarity.

2. The proposed development shall be amended as follows:
  - (a) Where pedestrian paths are positioned between the street edge and communal parking spaces, such paths shall be repositioned so that they are located behind communal car parking spaces, between the proposed dwellings and the parking areas, with a vegetation buffer inserted between the buildings and the footpath where required, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the planning authority.
  - (b) A revised design in relation to the layout of the childcare facility to accommodate a minimum of 60 number childcare places.

Revised drawings showing compliance with these requirements shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development.

**Reason:** In the interests of proper planning and sustainable development, to safeguard the amenities of the area and to enhance permeability.

3. All recommended measures outlined in the submitted Ecological Impact Assessment report shall be implemented in full.

**Reason:** In the interest of biodiversity.

4. Details of the materials, colours and textures of all the external finishes to the proposed dwellings/buildings and detailed public realm finishes shall be as submitted with the application, unless otherwise agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. In default of agreement the matter(s) in dispute shall be referred to An Bord Pleanála for determination.

**Reason:** In the interest of visual amenity.

5. Details of all boundary treatments shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to the commencement of development. In particular, details shall include treatment to rear of sites 219-201 and 234-237, and boundaries along the L-2994-0 and L7015-0 and all entrance points to the development, boundaries to the childcare facility and between the front and rear of dwellings, given the change in finished ground levels.

**Reasons:** In the interests of visual and residential amenity.

6. Proposals for an estate/street name, house numbering scheme and associated signage shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. Thereafter, all estate and street signs, and house numbers, shall be provided in accordance with the agreed scheme. The proposed name(s) shall be based on local historical or topographical features, or other alternatives acceptable to the planning authority. No advertisements/marketing signage relating to the name(s) of the development shall be erected until the developer has obtained the planning authority's written agreement to the proposed name(s).

**Reason:** In the interest of urban legibility and to ensure the use of locally appropriate place names for new residential areas.

7. Public lighting shall be provided in accordance with a scheme, which shall include lighting along pedestrian routes through open spaces, details of which shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development/installation of lighting. Such lighting shall be provided prior to the making available for occupation of any house.

**Reason:** In the interests of amenity and public safety.

8. All service cables associated with the proposed development (such as electrical, telecommunications and communal television) shall be located underground. Ducting shall be provided by the developer to facilitate the provision of broadband infrastructure within the proposed development. All existing over ground cables shall be relocated underground as part of the site development works.

**Reason:** In the interests of visual and residential amenity.

9. 123 number bicycle parking spaces shall be provided within the site. Details of the layout, marking, demarcation and security provisions for these spaces shall be submitted for the written agreement of the planning authority prior to commencement of development.

**Reason:** To ensure that adequate bicycle parking provision is available to serve the proposed development, in the interest of sustainable transportation.

10. The internal road network serving the proposed development, including turning bays, junctions, parking areas, footpaths and kerbs, shall be in accordance with the detailed construction standards of the planning authority for such works and design standards outlined in Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS). In default of agreement the matter(s) in dispute shall be referred to An Bord Pleanála for determination.

**Reason:** In the interests of amenity and of pedestrian and traffic safety.

11. Prior to the opening/occupation of the development, a Mobility Management Strategy shall be submitted to and agreed in writing with the planning authority. This shall provide for incentives to encourage the use of public transport, cycling, walking and carpooling by residents/occupants/staff employed in the development and to reduce and regulate the extent of parking. The mobility strategy shall be prepared and implemented by the management company for all units within the development.

**Reason:** In the interest of encouraging the use of sustainable modes of transport.

12. A minimum of 10% of all communal car parking spaces shall be provided with functioning electric vehicle charging stations/points, and ducting shall be provided for all remaining car parking spaces, including in-curtilage spaces, facilitating the installation of electric vehicle charging points/stations at a later date. Where proposals relating to the installation of electric vehicle ducting and charging stations/points has not been submitted with the application, in accordance with the above noted requirements, such proposals shall be submitted and agreed in writing with the planning authority prior to the occupation of the development.

**Reason:** To provide for and/or future proof the development such as would facilitate the use of electric vehicles.



13. Prior to commencement of development the developer shall submit a revised drainage plan to provide for Sustainable Drainage Systems measures. The plan shall include detailed site-specific design, layout, section drawings and construction details for the attenuation and disposal of surface water, which shall comply with the requirements of the planning authority for such works and services. The developer shall in addition submit to the planning authority for written agreement a Stage 2 - Detailed Design Stage Storm Water Audit. Upon Completion of the development, a Stage 3 Completion Stormwater Audit to demonstrate Sustainable Urban Drainage System measures have been installed and are working as designed and that there has been no misconnections or damage to storm water drainage infrastructure during construction, shall be submitted to the planning authority for written agreement.

**Reason:** In the interests of public health and surface water management.

14. The site shall be landscaped, and earthworks carried out in accordance with the detailed comprehensive scheme of landscaping which accompanied the application submitted, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the planning authority prior to commencement of development.

**Reason:** In the interests of residential and visual amenity.

15. The areas of public open space shown on the lodged plans shall be reserved for such use and shall be levelled, contoured, soiled, seeded, and landscaped in accordance with the landscape scheme submitted to An Bord Pleanála with this application, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the planning authority. The areas of public open space within each phase shall be completed before any of the dwellings are made available for occupation in that phase and shall be maintained as public open space by the developer until taken in charge by the local authority or management company.

**Reason:** In order to ensure the satisfactory development of the public open space areas, and their continued use for this purpose.

16. (a) A plan containing details for the management of waste (and, in particular, recyclable materials) within the development, including the provision of facilities for the storage, separation and collection of the waste and, in particular, recyclable materials and for the ongoing operation of these facilities for each apartment unit shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority not later than six months from the date of commencement of the development. Thereafter, the waste shall be managed in accordance with the agreed plan.
- (b) This plan shall provide for screened communal bin stores, the locations and designs of which shall be included in the details to be submitted.
- (c) This plan shall provide for screened bin stores, which shall accommodate not less than three standard sized wheeled bins within the curtilage of each house plot.

**Reason:** In the interest of residential amenity, and to ensure the provision of adequate refuse storage.

17. (a) The communal open spaces, including hard and soft landscaping, car parking areas and access ways, communal refuse/bin storage and all areas not intended to be taken in charge by the local authority, shall be maintained by a legally constituted management company
- (b) Details of the management company contract, and drawings/particulars describing the parts of the development for which the company would have responsibility, shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority before any of the residential units are made available for occupation.

**Reason:** To provide for the satisfactory future maintenance of this development in the interest of residential amenity.

18. Construction and demolition waste shall be managed in accordance with a construction waste and demolition management plan, which shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. This plan shall be prepared in accordance with the “Best Practice Guidelines on the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Projects”, published by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in July 2006. The plan shall include details of waste to be generated during site clearance and construction phases, and details of the methods and locations to be employed for the prevention, minimisation, recovery and disposal of this material in accordance with the provision of the Waste Management Plan for the Region in which the site is situated.

**Reason:** In the interest of sustainable waste management.

19. The construction of the development shall be managed in accordance with a Construction Management Plan, which shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. This plan shall provide details of intended construction practice for the development, including:
- (a) Location of the site and materials compound(s) including area(s) identified for the storage of construction refuse;
  - (b) Location of areas for construction site offices and staff facilities;
  - (c) Details of site security fencing and hoardings;
  - (d) Details of on-site car parking facilities for site workers during the course of construction;
  - (e) Details of the timing and routing of construction traffic to and from the construction site and associated directional signage, to include proposals to facilitate the delivery of abnormal loads to the site;
  - (f) Measures to obviate queuing of construction traffic on the adjoining road network;
  - (g) Measures to prevent the spillage or deposit of clay, rubble or other debris on the public road network;
  - (h) Details of appropriate mitigation measures for noise, dust and vibration, and monitoring of such levels;
  - (i) Containment of all construction-related fuel and oil within specially constructed bunds to ensure that fuel spillages are fully contained. Such bunds shall be roofed to exclude rainwater;
  - (j) Off-site disposal of construction/demolition waste and details of how it is proposed to manage excavated soil;
  - (k) Means to ensure that surface water run-off is controlled such that no silt or other pollutants enter local surface water sewers or drains.
  - (l) A record of daily checks that the works are being undertaken in accordance with the Construction Management Plan shall be kept for inspection by the planning authority.

**Reason:** In the interest of amenities, public health and safety.

20. Site development and building works shall be carried out only between the hours of 0700 to 1900 Mondays to Saturdays inclusive, and not at all on Sundays and public holidays. Deviation from these times will only be allowed in exceptional circumstances where prior written approval has been received from the planning authority.

**Reason:** In order to safeguard the residential amenities of property in the vicinity.

21. Prior to commencement of development, the developer or other person with an interest in the land to which the application relates shall enter into an agreement in writing with the planning authority in relation to the provision of housing in accordance with the requirements of section 94(4) and section 96(2) and (3) (Part V) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, unless an exemption certificate shall have been applied for and been granted under section 97 of the Act, as amended. Where such an agreement is not reached within eight weeks from the date of this order, the matter in dispute (other than a matter to which section 96(7) applies) may be referred by the planning authority or any other prospective party to the agreement to An Bord Pleanála for determination.

**Reason:** To comply with the requirements of Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and of the housing strategy in the development plan of the area.

22. Prior to commencement of development, the developer shall lodge with the planning authority a cash deposit, a bond of an insurance company, or other security to secure the provision and satisfactory completion and maintenance until taken in charge by the local authority of roads, footpaths, watermains, drains, public open space and other services required in connection with the development, coupled with an agreement empowering the local authority to apply such security or part thereof to the satisfactory completion or maintenance of any part of the development. The form and amount of the

security shall be as agreed between the planning authority and the developer or, in default of agreement, shall be referred to An Bord Pleanála for determination.

**Reason:** To ensure the satisfactory completion and maintenance of the development until taken in charge.

23. The developer shall enter into water and/or waste water connection agreement(s) with Irish Water, prior to commencement of development.

**Reason:** In the interest of public health.

24. The developer shall facilitate the preservation, recording and protection of archaeological materials or features that may exist within the site. In this regard, the developer shall:

- (a) notify the planning authority in writing at least four weeks prior to the commencement of any site operation (including hydrological and geotechnical investigations) relating to the proposed development,
- (b) employ a suitably qualified archaeologist who shall carry out site testing and monitor all site investigations and other excavation works, and
- (c) provide arrangements, acceptable to the planning authority, for the recording and for the removal of any archaeological material which the authority considers appropriate to remove.

In default of agreement on any of these requirements, the matter shall be referred to An Bord Pleanála for determination.

**Reason:** In order to conserve the archaeological heritage of the site and to secure the preservation and protection (in situ or by record) of any remains that may exist within the site.

25. The development shall be carried out on a phased basis, in accordance with a phasing scheme which shall be submitted to and agreed in writing with the planning authority prior to commencement of any development. The phasing plan shall include the following:
- (a) Delivery of housing in accordance with the phasing plan submitted.
  - (b) A detailed timeframe for the delivery of road network and junction upgrades relating to Junction 1, Junction 5, the L-2994-0 and the L-7015-0, as set out in the Traffic and Transport Assessment, in conjunction with the delivery of housing.
  - (c) Delivery of the childcare facility as part of a second phase of development, unless the developer can demonstrate to the written satisfaction of the planning authority that a childcare facility is not needed (at this time).

**Reason:** To ensure the timely provision of services, for the benefit of the occupants of the proposed dwellings.

26. The developer shall pay to the planning authority a financial contribution in respect of public infrastructure and facilities benefiting development in the area of the planning authority that is provided or intended to be provided by or on behalf of the authority in accordance with the terms of the Development Contribution Scheme made under section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. The contribution shall be paid prior to commencement of development or in such phased payments as the planning authority may facilitate and shall be subject to any applicable indexation provisions of the Scheme at the time of payment. Details of the application of the terms of the Scheme shall be agreed between the planning authority and the developer or, in default of such agreement, the matter shall be referred to An Bord Pleanála to determine the proper application of the terms of the Scheme.

**Reason:** It is a requirement of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, that a condition requiring a contribution in accordance with the Development Contribution Scheme made under section 48 of the Act be applied to the permission.

27. The developer shall pay to the planning authority a financial contribution in respect of the Cobh/Midleton-Blarney Suburban Rail Project in accordance with the terms of the Supplementary Development Contribution Scheme made by the planning authority under section 49 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. The contribution shall be paid prior to commencement of development or in such phased payments as the planning authority may facilitate and shall be subject to any applicable indexation provisions of the Scheme at the time of payment. Details of the application of the terms of the Scheme shall be agreed between the planning authority and the developer or, in default of such agreement, the matter shall be referred to An Bord Pleanála to determine the proper application of the terms of the Scheme.

**Reason:** It is a requirement of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, that a condition requiring a contribution in accordance with the Supplementary Development Contribution Scheme made under section 49 of the Act be applied to the permission.



