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

### **Planning Authority: Meath 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 27<sup>th</sup> day of May 2020 by David Target Investments ICAV care of Armstrong Fenton Associates, 13 Seapoint Building, 44/45 Clontarf Road, Clontarf, Dublin 3.

**Proposed Development:** A planning permission for a strategic housing development at on a site area of 4.8 hectares located at The Steeples Road, Duleek, County Meath in the townland of Commons. To the north-west of the site is the Stoneyford Green residential estate, to the west, on the opposite side of Steeples Road, is The Steeples residential estate, with Larrix Mews to the east.

The proposed development will consist of: -

167 number dwellings and a two-storey creche (415 square metres).

The residential dwellings will be comprised of: -

- 93 number two-storey houses and
- 74 number duplex units and apartments accommodated in five number three-storey blocks.

The proposed development consists of: -

- eight number three and four-bed detached houses,
- 38 number three and four-bed semi-detached houses,
- 47 number three and four-bed terraced houses, and
- 74 number one and two-bed ground floor apartments and three-bed duplex units overhead.

The proposed development provides for all associated site development works, including the provision of a roadside footpath and cyclepath along The Steeples Road, two number ESB sub-stations, car parking, bin and bicycle storage, public open spaces, hard and soft landscaping, boundary treatments and public lighting. Access to the development will be via one new vehicular entrance off The Steeples Road.

## **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 of the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019;
- (b) the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness 2016;
- (c) the National Planning Framework (2018);
- (d) the Guidelines for Sustainable Residential Developments in Urban Areas and the accompanying Urban Design Manual – a Best Practice Guide, issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in May 2009;
- (e) Urban Development and Building Heights Guidelines for Planning Authorities, prepared by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in December 2018;
- (f) Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments, Guidelines for Planning Authorities prepared by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in March 2018;
- (g) Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) May 2019
- (h) the nature, scale and design of the proposed development;
- (i) the availability in the area of a wide range of educational, social, community and transport infrastructure;
- (j) the Chief Executive's report received from the planning authority;
- (k) the submissions and observations received, and
- (l) the report and recommendation of the inspector including the examination, analysis and evaluation undertaken in relation to appropriate assessment screening and environmental impact assessment screening.

## **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 Information for Screening 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 an environmental impact assessment screening of the proposed development and considered that the Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report submitted by the applicant, identifies and describes adequately the direct, indirect, secondary, and cumulative effects of the proposed development on the environment.

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 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 is not required.

## **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 edge of town centre 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.

The Board considered that, while a grant of permission for the proposed Strategic Housing Development would not materially contravene a zoning objective of the development plan, a grant of permission could materially contravene 'Table 2.4 Housing Allocation and Zoned Land Requirements' of the Meath County Development Plan and the 'Yield and Phasing of Residential Zoned Sites' table in the Duleek Written Statement, Volume 5 of the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 with reference to residential density alone. The Board considers that, having regard to the provisions of section 37(2)(b)(i) and (iii) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the grant of permission in material contravention of the Development Plan would be justified for the following reasons and considerations:

In relation to section 37(2)(b)(i) and (iii) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the proposed development is considered to be of strategic and national importance having regard to:

- the definition of 'strategic housing development' pursuant to section 3 of the Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act 2016 (as amended);
- the development shows support for the National Policy Objectives in the National Planning Framework, in particular Objective 33 and 35 given its location within Duleek which is identified as a Small Town in the Meath County Development Plan 2013- 2019 where Strategic Policy 2 of the Duleek Written Statement seeks higher density development located on the most central lands where possible;

- the potential to contribute to the achievement of the Government’s policy to increase delivery of housing from its current under-supply set out in Rebuilding Ireland – Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness issued in July 2016 and compliance with Chapter 6 of the Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas Guidelines 2009 in terms of residential density.

## 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 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) The rear facing bedroom window of bedroom 3 of house number 72, house type B2, shall be repositioned to the eastern elevation.
  - (b) The secure bicycle storage area for 107 bicycle spaces north of duplex Block 01 shall be relocated to remove and replace car parking spaces 107-112, and the resulting space shall be used to provide communal open space.

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 interest of residential amenity.

3. Details of the materials, colours and textures of all the external finishes to the proposed dwellings/buildings 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.

4. (a) All screen walls shall be as submitted with the application, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the planning authority prior to commencement of development.  
  
(b) All rear garden walls shall be as submitted with the application, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the planning authority prior to commencement of development.

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

5. Any plant including extract ventilation systems and refrigerator condenser units shall be sited in a manner so as not to cause nuisance at sensitive locations due to odour or noise. All mechanical plant and ventilation inlets and outlets shall be sound insulated and/or fitted with sound attenuators to ensure that noise levels do not pose a nuisance at noise sensitive locations.

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

6. No advertisement or advertisement structure (other than those shown on the drawings submitted with the application) shall be erected or displayed on the building (or within the curtilage of the site) in such a manner as to be visible from outside the building, unless authorised by a further grant of planning permission.

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

7. 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 legibility and to ensure the use of locally appropriate place names for new residential areas.

8. 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.

9. 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.

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 DMURS. Specifically:
  - (a) The central four arm roundabout shall be redesigned in accordance with the National Cycle Manual and DMURS principles to the satisfaction of the planning authority.
  - (b) Cycle lanes shall conform to the standards set out at section 4.3.2.1 of the National Cycle Manual and which shall be segregated from the pedestrian footpath, maintain priority over minor roads at junctions, and bring cyclists across the junction at the Longford Road.

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

**Reason:** To ensure that the streets in the authorised development facilitate movement by sustainable transport modes in accordance with the applicable standards set out in DMURS and the National Cycle Manual.

11. Final details of roads and traffic arrangements serving the site (including signage) shall be agreed and shall include the integration of all works at the junction of the development at Longford Road, and at the junction of the development with Longford Road and the R150 with any local authority works.

Revised drawings/reports showing compliance with these requirements shall be submitted to and 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 interests of traffic, cyclist and pedestrian safety and sustainable travel.

12. All roads and footpaths shown connecting to adjoining lands shall be constructed up to the boundaries with no ransom strips remaining to provide access to adjoining lands. These areas shall be shown for taking in charge in a drawing to be submitted and agreed with the planning authority.

**Reason:** In the interest of permeability and proper planning and sustainable development.

13. A minimum of 10 per cent 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.

14. Drainage arrangements including the attenuation and disposal of surface water, shall comply with the requirements of the planning authority for such works and services. Prior to commencement of development the developer shall 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 interest of public health and surface water management.

15. 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.

16. The areas of public open space shown on the lodged plans shall be reserved for such use and shall be levelled, 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. This work shall be completed before any of the dwellings are made available for occupation 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.

17. (a) Prior to commencement of development, all trees, groups of trees, hedging and shrubs which are to be retained shall be enclosed within stout fences not less than 1.5 metres in height. This protective fencing shall enclose an area covered by the crown spread of the branches, or at minimum a radius of two metres from the trunk of the tree or the centre of the shrub, and to a distance of two metres on each side of the hedge for its full length, and shall be maintained until the development has been completed.
- (b) No construction equipment, machinery or materials shall be brought onto the site for the purpose of the development until all the trees which are to be retained have been protected by this fencing. No work shall be carried out within the area enclosed by the fencing and, in particular, there shall be no parking of vehicles, placing of site huts, storage compounds or topsoil heaps, storage of oil, chemicals or other substances, and no lighting of fires, over the root spread of any tree to be retained.
- (c) Excavations in preparation for foundations and drainage, and all works

above ground level in the immediate vicinity of tree(s) and hedges and identified as 'to be retained' on landscape drawings, as submitted with the application, shall be carried out under the supervision of a specialist arborist, in a manner that will ensure that all major roots are protected and all branches are retained.

- (d) No trench, embankment or pipe run shall be located within three metres of any trees and hedging which are to be retained on the site.

**Reason:** To protect trees and planting during the construction period in the interest of visual amenity.

18. Prior to commencement of development, the developer shall lodge with the planning authority a cash deposit, a bond of an insurance company or such other security as may be accepted in writing by the planning authority, to secure the protection of the trees on site and to make good any damage caused during the construction period, coupled with an agreement empowering the planning authority to apply such security, or part thereof, to the satisfactory protection of any tree or trees on the site or the replacement of any such trees which die, are removed or become seriously damaged or diseased within a period of three years from the substantial completion of the development with others of similar size and species. 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 secure the protection of the trees on the site.

19. (a) The management and maintenance of the proposed development, following its completion, shall be the responsibility of a legally constituted management company, or by the local authority in the event of the development or elements of the development being taken in charge. 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.

- (b) 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 the legally constituted management company.

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

- 20. Noise attenuators shall be fitted to any openings required for ventilation or air conditioning purposes.

Details indicating the proposed methods of compliance with the above requirements shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development.

**Reason:** To protect the residential amenities of property in the vicinity.

- 21. 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.

22. 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) Alternative arrangements to be put in place for pedestrians and vehicles in the case of the closure of any public road or footpath during the course of site development works.
  - (i) Details of appropriate mitigation measures for noise, dust and vibration, and monitoring of such levels.
  - (j) 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.
  - (k) Off-site disposal of construction/demolition waste and details of how it is proposed to manage excavated soil.

(l) Means to ensure that surface water run-off is controlled such that no silt or other pollutants enter local surface water sewers or drains.

(m) 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 interests of amenities, public health and safety.

23. 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.

24. Prior to commencement of development, the applicant 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.

25. 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 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 of any remains that may exist within the site.

26. 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.

27. 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.

28. The developer shall pay to the planning authority a financial contribution as a special contribution under section 48(2) (c) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 in respect of necessary improvements to the junction of Longford Road and the R150. The amount of the contribution 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 for determination. The contribution shall be paid prior to commencement of development or in such phased payments as the planning authority may facilitate and shall be updated at the time of payment in accordance with changes in the Wholesale Price Index – Building and Construction (Capital Goods), published by the Central Statistics Office.

