



An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Direction
BD-003154-19
ABP-303799-19

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a Board meeting held on 28/05/2019.

The Board decided to grant permission generally in accordance with the Inspector's recommendation, for the following reasons and considerations, and subject to the following conditions.

Reasons and Considerations

Having regard to the following:

- (a) the site's location adjoining the established settlement of Drogheda, Co. Meath on lands with a zoning objective for residential development in the Local Area Plan for the Southern Environs of Drogheda 2009-2015 (as extended);
- (b) the policies and objectives in the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 (including Variation No. 2);
- (c) the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness;
- (d) the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas and the accompanying Urban Design Manual;
- (e) the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments;
- (f) the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS);

- (g) the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (including the associated Technical Appendices);
- (h) the nature, scale and design of the proposed development;
- (i) the availability in the area of a wide range of social and transport infrastructure;
- (j) the pattern of existing and permitted development in the area, and
- (k) the submissions and observations received,
- (l) the Inspector's Report

It is considered that, subject to compliance with the conditions set out below, the proposed development would not seriously injure the residential or visual amenities of the area or of property in the vicinity, would respect the existing character of the area and would be acceptable in terms of traffic and pedestrian safety and convenience and would not give rise to flooding in the area. The proposed development would, therefore, be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

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 (being a development of land within a zoned and serviced urban area), the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report 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 sites' conservation objectives, and that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not, therefore, required.

Environmental Impact Assessment Screening

The Board completed an environmental impact assessment screening determination 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, in a suburban area on a generally greenfield 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 was not necessary in this case.

Conditions

1. The 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, the matter(s) in dispute shall be referred to An Bord Pleanála for determination.

Reason: In the interest of clarity.

2. 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.

Reason: To ensure the timely provision of services, and the provision of the link route, for the benefit of the occupants of the proposed units.

3. The proposed development shall be modified as follows with regard to pedestrian/cycle and roads requirements:
 - (a) The roads and traffic arrangements serving the site (including road signage), shall be in accordance with the detailed requirements of the planning authority for such works and shall be carried out at the developer's expense.
 - (b) The vehicular access from the R108, along with associated pedestrian and cycle facilities, and the pedestrian crossing at the R108 to the north of the site shall be in accordance with the detailed requirements of the planning authority for such works and shall be carried out at the developer's expense.
 - (c) The internal road network serving the proposed development including turning bays, junctions, parking areas, footpaths, cycle paths and kerbs, pedestrian crossings, car parking bay sizes and road access to commercial parking shall comply with the requirements of the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets, in particular carriageway widths and corner radii, and cycle tracks

within the development shall be in accordance with the guidance provided in the National Cycle Manual.

- (d) The materials used in any roads/footpaths provided by the developer shall comply with the detailed standards of the planning authority for such road works.
- (e) The developer shall carry out a Stage 3 Road Safety Audit of the constructed development on completion of the works, which shall be submitted to the planning authority for its written agreement. The developer shall carry out all agreed recommendations contained in the audit, at his expense.
- (f) A Mobility Management Plan for the development shall be prepared and submitted to the Planning Authority for its written consent prior to the commencement of development.
- (g) The applicant shall submit revised car parking proposals such that 15 no. extra car parking spaces are provided to serve the apartment and duplex units.

Revised drawings and particulars 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 pedestrian, cyclist and traffic safety.

4. Development described in Classes 1 or 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 2 to the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, or any statutory provision modifying or replacing them, shall not be carried out within the curtilage of any of the proposed houses without a prior grant of planning permission.

Reason: In order to ensure that a reasonable amount of private open space is provided for the benefit of the occupants of the proposed dwellings, and to allow

the planning authority to assess the implications of any such development on residential amenity through the statutory planning process.

5. The materials, colours and finishes of the authorised buildings, the treatment of boundaries within the development and the landscaping of the site shall generally be in accordance with the details submitted with the application, subject to the following amendments –

- (a) The proposed render finishes to the apartment/duplex blocks shall be replaced by a more durable finish.

- (b) All rear gardens of houses shall be bounded with brick or concrete block walls, which shall be a minimum of 1.8 metres high, except where bounding public open spaces or roads, when the walls shall be 2 metres in height, or by concrete post and concrete panel fences, 1.8 metres high. The proposed boundary treatment, using concrete post and timber panel fences, or any other form of timber fencing, shall not be used for any rear garden boundaries except where an alternative boundary treatment is necessary to protect existing trees or hedgerows.

- (c) Details of all boundaries shared with adjoining residential properties shall be agreed with the planning authority.

Details showing the required amendments shall be submitted to and agreed in writing with the planning authority prior to the commencement of development.

Reason: In the interests of visual and residential amenity and to ensure the provision of durable boundary treatment in the interest of the residential amenity of future occupiers of the development.

6. Public lighting shall be provided in accordance with a scheme, which shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. Such lighting shall be provided prior to the

making available by the developer for occupation of any house / unit within the relevant phase of the development.

Reason: In the interest of amenity and public safety.

7. Proposals for a naming and numbering scheme for the proposed development shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. Thereafter, all estate signs, and house numbers, shall be provided in accordance with the agreed scheme. The proposed name 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 of the development shall be erected until the developer has obtained the planning authority's written agreement to the proposed name.

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

8.

- (a) The development, including all roads, footpaths, cycle paths, verges, public lighting, open spaces, surface water drains, attenuation infrastructure and all other services, as permitted under this order, shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the "taking-in-charge" standards of the planning authority.
- (b) The areas of open space shown on submitted drawings shall be reserved for such use and shall be levelled, contoured, soiled seeded and landscaped in accordance with the detailed requirements of the planning authority. The open space areas shall be laid out and landscaped prior to the making available by

the developer for occupation of any of the houses in the relevant phase of the development.

- (c) All of the areas of public open space, as shown on the submitted drawings, shall be maintained by the developer until such time as the development is taken in charge by the local authority. When the estate is taken in charge, the open spaces shall be vested in the planning authority, at no cost to the authority, as public open space.

Reason: In the interest of proper development, the timely provision of open spaces and in order to comply with national policy in relation to the maintenance and management of residential estates.

9. The site shall be landscaped in accordance with a comprehensive scheme of landscaping, details of which shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. This scheme shall include the following:

(a) A plan to scale of not less than [1:500] showing –

- i. Existing trees, hedgerows, specifying which are proposed for retention as features of the site landscaping
- ii. The measures to be put in place for the protection of these landscape features during the construction period
- iii. The species, variety, number, size and locations of all proposed trees and shrubs, which shall comprise predominantly native species such as

mountain ash, birch, willow, sycamore, pine, oak, hawthorn, holly, hazel, beech or alder and which shall not include prunus species

iv. Details of roadside/street planting which shall not include prunus species

(b) Specifications for mounding, levelling, cultivation and other operations associated with plant and grass establishment

(c) A timescale for implementation

All planting shall be adequately protected from damage until established. Any plants which die, are removed or become seriously damaged or diseased, within a period of five years from the completion of the development, shall be replaced within the next planting season with others of similar size and species, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the planning authority.

Reason: In the interests of residential and visual amenity.

10. The proposed development shall make provision for the charging of electrical vehicles. All car parking spaces shall be provided with electrical connections, to allow for the provision of future charging points and in the case of all of the parking areas serving the apartments and 10% of the spaces serving the houses shall be provided with electrical charging points by the developer. Details of how it is proposed to comply with these requirements, including details of design of, and signage for, the electrical charging points and the provision for the operation and maintenance of the charging points (where they are not in the areas to be

taken in charge) shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the Planning Authority prior to commencement of development.

Reason: In the interests of pedestrian, cyclist and traffic safety, to protect residential amenity and in the interest of sustainable transportation.

11. Standard ABP Management Company Condition for Apartments.

12. 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.

Reason: In the interests of visual and residential amenity.

13. Water supply and drainage arrangements, including the attenuation and disposal of surface water, shall comply with the requirements of the planning authority for such works and services.

Reason: In the interest of public health.

14. 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, noise management measures and off-site disposal of construction/demolition waste.

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

15. Site development and building works shall be carried out only between the hours of 0800 to 1900 Mondays to Fridays inclusive, between 0800 to 1400 hours on Saturdays 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.

16. 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.

Reason: In the interest of sustainable waste management

17. A detailed construction traffic management plan shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. The plan shall include details of arrangements for routes for construction traffic and parking for construction workers during the construction phase, and arrangements for delivery of abnormal loads to the site.

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

18. The developer shall facilitate the archaeological appraisal of the site and shall provide for the preservation, recording and protection of archaeological materials or features which 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, and

- (b) employ a suitably-qualified archaeologist prior to the commencement of development. The archaeologist shall assess the site and monitor all site development works including the removal of topsoil in all areas identified during the geophysical survey and confirmed by archaeological test

excavations to be archaeological in nature. No sub-surface work shall be undertaken in the absence of the archaeologist without his / her express consent. Full archaeological excavation of these features shall be carried out in accordance with the terms of an excavation licence issued by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

The applicant shall submit the following to the planning authority and the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht:

- A report, containing the results of the monitoring to include photographs of the area before, during and after monitoring has taken place, as well as detailed photographs of specific areas, as required.
- A key plan, clearly showing the location and direction from which the photographs were taken should be included with the report (an annotated site location map will suffice for this purpose).

Where archaeological material is shown to be present, further mitigatory measures will be required; these may include redesign (in whole or in part) to allow for preservation in situ, and/or additional excavation or monitoring. The Department will advise the Planning Authority and the applicant with regard to these matters.

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 area and to secure the preservation (in-situ or by record) and protection of any archaeological remains that may exist within the site.

19. 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

20. 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

21. The developer shall pay the sum of € 990,000 euro (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), to the planning authority as a special contribution under section 48 (2)(c) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, in respect of the provision of a distributor link road between the R132 and M1. This contribution shall be paid prior to commencement of development or in such phased payments as the planning authority may facilitate. The application of indexation required by this condition

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.

Reason: It is considered reasonable that the developer should contribute towards the specific exceptional costs which are incurred by the planning authority which are not covered in the Development Contribution Scheme and which will benefit the proposed development.

22. 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

Board Member

Date: 28/05/2019

Terry Ó Niadh