

Board Direction BD-009572-21 ABP-311190-21

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a Board meeting held on 02/12/2021.

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

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 site's location within an area with a zoning objective that permits residential development in principle;
- (b) the National Planning Framework issued by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in February 2018;
- (c) Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region, 2019 2031;
- (d) the policies and objectives set out in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County

 Development Plan 2016-2022

- (e) the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness, 2016 and Housing for All, A New Housing Plan for Ireland, 2021
- (f) 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
- (g) the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments, 2020
- (h) the Urban Development and Building Heights Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2018;
- (i) the Architectural Heritage Protection, Guidelines for Planning Authorities, issued by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in October 2011;
- (j) the Planning System and Flood Risk Management (including the associated Technical Appendices), 2009
- (k) the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets, DMURS 2013,
- (I) the pattern of existing and permitted development in the area
- (m) the nature, scale and design of the proposed development and the availability in the area of a wide range of community, social, retail and transport infrastructure, including the Luas Green Line;
- (n) the planning history of the site and area;
- (o) the submissions and observations received,
- (p) the Chief Executive's Report of the planning authority and associated appendices, including the recommended reasons to refuse permission; and
- (q) the report of the Inspector.

The Board, in deciding not to accept the refusal recommendations as contained in the Report of the Chief Executive of the Planning Authority, agreed with the Inspector's assessment and recommendation on those matters.

Appropriate Assessment Screening

The Board completed an Appropriate Assessment screening exercise in relation to the potential effects of the proposed development on European Sites, taking into account the nature and scale of the proposed development on serviced lands, the nature of the receiving environment which comprises a built-up urban area, the distances to the nearest European sites and the indirect hydrological pathway considerations, submissions on file, the information submitted as part of the applicant's Appropriate Assessment documentation and the Inspector's report. In completing the screening exercise, the Board agreed with and adopted the report of the Inspector and that, by itself or in combination with other development, plans and projects 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. In particular, the Board agreed with and adopted the Inspector's assessment and conclusion that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment was not required notwithstanding the submission of an NIS by the applicant for permission which proceeded on the basis that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment was 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.

Thus, having regard to:

- (a) the nature and scale of the proposed development, which is below the threshold in respect of Class 10 (b)(i) and (iv) of Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended,
- (b) Class 14 of Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended,
- (c) the location of the site on lands that are zoned for residential uses under the provisions of the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Development Plan 2016 2022 and the results of the strategic environmental assessment of the Dun

- Laoghaire Rathdown County Development Plan 2016 2022 undertaken in accordance with the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC),
- (d) the pattern of development on the lands in the surrounding area,
- (e) the availability of mains water and wastewater services to serve the development,
- (f) the location of the development outside any sensitive location specified in Article 299(c)(1)(v) of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended),
- (g) the guidance set out in the "Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-Threshold Development" issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2003),
- (h) the criteria set out in Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended),
- (i) the features and measures proposed by the applicant to avoid or prevent what might otherwise be significant effects on the environment, including measures identified in the Natura Impact Statement, Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan, Outline Construction and Demolition Waste Management Plan, Outline Construction Management Plan and Operational Waste & Recycling Management Plan, Ecological Impact Assessment, Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment, Arboricultural Report, Archaeological Assessment and Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment.

It is considered that the proposed development, by reason of the nature, scale and location of the subject site, would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment and the preparation and submission of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report would not therefore be required.

Conclusions on Proper Planning and Sustainable Development

The Board considers that the proposed development is, apart from the Building Height, broadly compliant with the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016-2022 and would therefore be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

The Board considered that a grant of permission could materially contravene the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016-2022 in relation to the following:

Building Height: Appendix 9 - Building Height Strategy of the Plan

The Board considers that, having regard to the provisions of section 37(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the grant of permission in material contravention of the County Development Plan would be justified for the following reasons and consideration.

Building Height:

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) and its potential to contribute to the achievement of the Government's policy to increase delivery of housing from its current under supply set out in the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness, 2016 and Housing for All, A New Housing Plan for Ireland, 2021 and to facilitate the achievement of greater density and height in residential development in an urban centre close to public transport.
- It is considered that permission for the proposed development should be granted having regard to Government policies as set out in the National Planning Framework (in particular objectives 13 and 35) and the Urban Development and Building Height Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2018, in particular SPPR3.

In conclusion, the Board considers that, subject to compliance with the conditions set out below, the proposed development would constitute and acceptable quantum and density of development in this location, would not seriously injure the residential or visual amenities of the area or property in the vicinity, would respect the existing character of the area, would be acceptable in terms of urban design and height and would be acceptable in terms of pedestrian and traffic safety and convenience. The proposed development would, therefore, be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

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 proposed development shall be amended as follows:
 - (a) Apartment nos. C05, C07 and C09 shall be omitted at the ground floor level of Building C and a creche shall be included in their place, with associated direct access to an external play area.
 - (b) Future pedestrian routes/cyclist permeability links shall be provided for right up to the site's northern boundary with the access road to Blackrock College to allow for potential future pedestrian/cyclist links subject to appropriate consents.

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

In the default of agreement the matter(s) in dispute shall be referred to an Bord Pleanála for determination.

Reason: In the interest of visual and residential amenity and pedestrian/cyclist and traffic safety.

3. This grant of planning permission permits 241 number apartment units.

Reason: In the interest of clarity.

4. The development hereby permitted shall be for build to rent units which shall operate in accordance with the definition of Build-to-Rent developments as set out in the Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (December 2020) and be used for long term rentals only. No portion of this development shall be used for short term lettings.

Reason: In the interest of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and in the interest of clarity.

5. Prior to the commencement of development, the owner shall submit, for the written consent of the planning authority, details of a proposed covenant or legal agreement which confirms that the development hereby permitted shall remain owned and operated by an institutional entity for a minimum period of not less than 15 years and where no individual residential units shall be sold separately for that period. The period of 15 years shall be from the date of occupation of the first residential unit within the scheme. This covenant or legal agreement shall also highlight the reduced level of car parking available to future residents.

Reason: In the interests of proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

6. Prior to expiration of the 15-year period referred to in the covenant, the owner shall submit for the written agreement of the planning authority, ownership details and management structures proposed for the continued operation of the entire development as a Build-to-Rent scheme. Any proposed amendment or deviation from the Build-to-Rent model as authorised in this permission shall be subject to a separate planning application.

Reason: In the interests of orderly development and clarity.

- 7. 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/An Bord Pleanála 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.
- 8. Proposals for an apartment naming / numbering scheme and associated signage shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. Thereafter, all signs, and apartment numbers, shall be provided in accordance with the agreed scheme. The proposed names 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.

9. No additional development shall take place above roof parapet level, including lift motor enclosures, air handling equipment, storage tanks, ducts or other external plant, telecommunication aerials, antennas or equipment, unless authorised by a further grant of planning permission.

Reason: To protect the residential amenities of property in the vicinity and the visual amenities of the area.

10. Prior to commencement of development the applicant shall ensure that the demolition of the existing southern boundary wall to Tower Green is preceded by detailed recording to inform archival information on the original demesne of Clareville. A report detailing same, and any findings shall be submitted to the planning authority for record.

Reason: To ensure an appropriate standard of development/conservation.

11. The site shall be landscaped in accordance with the submitted scheme of landscaping, details of which shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. Sufficient planting depths in the raised planters shall be agreed with the planning

authority for all podium and roof level planting. The developer shall retain the services of a suitably qualified Landscape Architect throughout the life of the site development works. The approved landscaping scheme shall be implemented fully in the first planting season following completion of the development or each phase of the development and any plant materials that die or are removed within three years of planting shall be replaced in the first planting season thereafter.

Reason: In the interest of residential and visual amenity.

12. Prior to commencement of any permitted development, the developer shall engage the services of a qualified arborist as an Arboricultural consultant, for the entire period of construction activity. The developer shall inform the Planning Authority in writing of the appointment and name of the consultant, prior to commencement of development. The consultant shall visit the site at a minimum on a weekly basis, to ensure the implementation of all of the recommendations in the tree reports and plans. To ensure the protection of trees to be retained within the site, the developer shall implement all the recommendations pertaining to tree retention, tree protection and tree works, as detailed in the in the submitted Arboricultural Report and accompanying documents. All tree felling, surgery and remedial works shall be completed upon completion of the works. All works on retained trees shall comply with proper arboricultural techniques conforming to BS 3998: 2010 Tree Work -Recommendations. The clearance of any vegetation including trees and shrub shall be carried out outside the bird-breeding season (1 March-31 August inclusive) or as stipulated under the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2000. The arborist shall carry out a post construction tree survey and assessment on the condition of the retained trees. A completion certificate is to be signed off by the arborist when all permitted development works are completed and in line with the recommendations of the tree report. The certificate shall be submitted to the planning authority upon completion of the works.

Reason: To ensure and give practical effect to the retention, protection and sustainability of trees during and after construction of the permitted development.

13. The mitigation measures outlined in the Ecology Impact Assessment and Invasive Species Management Plans submitted with this application shall be carried out in full, except where otherwise required by conditions of this permission.

Reason: To protect the environment and in the interest of wildlife protection.

- 14. Prior to commencement of development the applicant shall submit to the planning authority for its written agreement:
 - (a) A bat conservation report to include an assessment of the suitability as a bat roost of any tree it is proposed to fell on the development site, and a methodology and schedule for the removal of such trees under the supervision of a bat expert licensed to handle bats; the removal of any tree identified as a bat roost only to be carried out on receipt from the NPWS of a licence to derogate from the Habitats Directive and destroy the roost.
 - (b) A lighting scheme for the proposed development designed in accordance with guidance contained in Institution of Lighting Professionals (ILP).(2018). Guidance Note 08/18: Bats and artificial lighting in the UK, and signed off on by a bat specialist.
 - (c) A badger conservation plan, to include a survey identifying the extent of any burrow system/s/sett located on site. Where sett/s are identified this survey should also include a methodology for the preservation of the burrow system/s during the construction of the proposed development, if necessary providing for the temporary exclusion of the burrow/s, as well as modification to the landscaping proposals for the site in the vicinity of the burrow system including, as necessary, the diversion of paths and the fire access road so as to preserve the possibility of the use of these burrows by badgers in the long term. Where the preservation of all or part of an active burrow system on site is not possible, the developer shall provide details of mitigation measures including where deemed necessary details of replacement artificial setts. Construction activities within the vicinity of active setts may only commence once these setts have been evacuated and destroyed under licence from the NPWS. Where affected setts do not require destruction, construction works may commence once

recommended alternative mitigation measures to address any identified badger issues have been complied with.

Reason: To protect the environment and in the interest of wildlife protection.

15. Prior to commencement of the development, details of all areas of boundary treatment, play equipment and planting, shall be submitted to, and approved, by the planning authority. Boundaries and areas of communal open space shown on the lodged plans shall be landscaped in accordance with the landscape scheme submitted to An Bord Pleanála with this application, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the planning authority. Access to green roof areas shall be strictly prohibited unless for maintenance purposes.

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

16. In the interest of residential and visual amenity a schedule of landscape maintenance shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to occupation of the development. This schedule shall cover a period of at least three years, and shall include details of the arrangements for its implementation.

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

17. 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 to be retained 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.

18. 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 and installation of lighting. Such lighting shall be provided prior to the making available for occupation of any apartments.

Reason: In the interests of amenity and public safety.

- 19. 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 who monitor al site investigations and other excavation works,
 - (c) should archaeological material be found during the course of archaeological monitoring, all work which might affect that material will cease pending agreement with the National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to how it is to be dealt with,
 - (d) all archaeological deposits and features, within the area where groundworks will occur, which were recorded during previous test excavations, shall be fully archaeologically planned, photographed and excavated by a suitably qualified archaeologist, all necessary licences

- or consents under the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 having been obtained,
- (e) all costs of archaeological work necessitated by, or arising from, the development shall be borne by the developer.

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.

20. 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.

21.A minimum of 10% of all car parking spaces should be provided with electric vehicle charging stations or points, and ducting shall be provided for all remaining car parking spaces facilitating the installation of electric vehicle charging points or stations at a later date. Where proposals relating to the installation of electric vehicles ducting and charging stations or points have not been submitted with the application, in accordance with the above noted requirements, the development shall submit 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.

22. Electric charging facilities shall be provided for bicycle parking and proposals shall be submitted to and agreed in writing with the planning authority prior to the occupation of the development.

Reason: In the interests of orderly development and to provide for and future proof the development as would facilitate the use of electric bicycles.

23. The internal road network serving the proposed development, including set down areas, footpaths and kerbs and the underground car park and ramps to same shall be in accordance with the detailed construction standards of the planning authority for such works and design standards outlined in 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 2019, as amended,

Details of signage in relation to cycle parking and safe access to same should also be submitted for agreement 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 amenity and of traffic and pedestrian safety.

24. Prior to the opening and 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 or occupants
and 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. Details to be
agreed with the planning authority shall include the provision of centralised
facilities within the commercial element of the development for bicycle
parking, shower and changing facilities associated with the policies set out in
the strategy.

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Reason: In the interests of encouraging the use of sustainable modes of transport.

25. The construction of the development shall be managed in accordance with a Construction Management Plan and Environmental Management Construction 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 hours of working, noise and dust management measures, traffic management arrangements and measures and off-site disposal of construction and demolition waste.

Reason: In the interest of public safety.

26. Construction and demolition waste shall be managed in accordance with a construction and demolition waste management plan and construction environmental 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.

27. 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) A Stage 2 Detailed Design Stage Storm Water Audit.
- (b) An updated Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment which adequately addresses the risk due to overland flow and also comments on the

proposed surface water drainage system in the event of blockage or partial blockage and any surcharging or flood risk that may be identified.

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.

28. Prior to the commencement of development, the developer shall enter into water and wastewater connection agreement(s) with Irish Water.

Reason: In the interest of public health.

29. Site development and building works shall be carried out only between the hours of 0700 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.

30. The management and maintenance of the proposed development following its completion shall be the responsibility of a legally constituted management company. A management scheme providing adequate measures for the future maintenance of public open spaces, roads and communal areas shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to occupation of the development.

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

31. 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.

32. 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.

33. 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.

Note:

In deciding not to accept the Inspectors recommendation to require additional screening measures to be agreed with the planning authority for the western face of the balconies of Apartments Numbers A15, A-17, A-19, A-32, A-34, A-36, A-49, A-51 and A-53 the Board was satisfied that the design of the proposed development had sufficient regard to overlooking issue and did not require additional mitigation measures and furthermore it was satisfied that supplementary opaque glazing and screening to a height of 1.8 meters would not be warranted on the western facing ends of the balconies of Apartment Numbers A-28, A-29, A-45 and A-46.



