

An  
Bord  
Pleanála

**Board Direction  
BD-013070-23**

**ABP-313272-22**

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a Board meeting held on 27/07/2023.

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.

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

- (a) The location of the site on lands within a zoning objective for residential, and the policy and objective provisions as set out in the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027;
- (b) the nature, scale and design of the proposed development which is consistent with the provisions of the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027 and appendices contained therein;
- (c) the provisions of Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness 2016;
- (d) the provisions of 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) the provisions of the Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments, Guidelines for Planning Authorities issued by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in December 2022;
- (f) the provisions of Housing for All, A New Housing Plan for Ireland issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage September 2021;
- (g) the provisions of the Regulation of Commercial Institutional Investment Guidelines for Planning Authorities issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in May 2021;
- (h) the provisions of 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 2019, as amended;
- (i) to the pattern of existing and permitted development in the area, and;
- (j) to the submissions and observations received;
- (k) the Chief Executive's Report submitted by Meath County Council;
- (l) the report of the Planning 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, 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 significant effects 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, which is below the threshold in respect of Class 10b(i) and (iv) of Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development regulations 2001, as amended;
- (b) the existing use on the site and pattern of development in the surrounding area;
- (c) the habitats on site and species that utilise such;
- (d) the availability of mains water and wastewater services to serve the proposed development;
- (e) the location of the development outside of any sensitive location specified in Article 299(C)(1)(v) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended;
- (f) the guidance set out in "Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-threshold Development" issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2003);
- (g) the criteria set out in Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development regulations 2001, as amended, and
- (h) the features and measures proposed by the applicant envisaged to avoid or prevent what otherwise would be significant effects on the environment, including measures identified in the proposed Construction and Environmental Management Plan.

The Board considered that the proposed development 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 considered that, subject to compliance with the conditions set out below that the proposed development would constitute an acceptable quantum and density of development in this accessible urban location, would not seriously injure the residential or visual amenities of the area, or historic environment, would be acceptable in terms of urban design, height, scale, mass, 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. In coming to this conclusion, specific regard was had to the Chief Executive's Report received from the planning authority.

The Board considered that the proposed development is substantively compliant with the current Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027 and 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, or as otherwise stipulated by conditions hereunder, and the development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the agreed particulars.

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

2. The proposed parallel parking adjoining the public open space to the north-east of road one shall be omitted, and the lands shall be incorporated into the public open space. Revised drawings shall be submitted and agreed with the planning authority prior to the commencement of development.

**Reason:** in the interest of residential amenity

3. The northern termination of Road One, and the eastern termination of Road Five as depicted on drawing 6204-P-003 as submitted on 11 April 2022, shall extend to the site boundaries. All roads and footpaths shown to adjoining lands shall be constructed up to the boundaries to provide current or potential future 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.

4. The Development shall be carried out in accordance with the phasing programme specified.

**Reason:** In the interest of orderly development.

5. Details of the materials, colours and textures of all the external finishes to the proposed building 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.

6. Proposals for a development name and numbering scheme and associated signage shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the Planning Authority prior to commencement of development. Thereafter, all such names and numbering shall be provided in accordance with the agreed scheme.

**Reason:** In the interest of urban legibility.

7. Public lighting shall be provided in accordance with a scheme, which shall include lighting along pedestrian routes through the communal 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 apartment unit.

**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.

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

9. The road network serving the proposed development, including turning bays, junction with the public road, parking areas, footpaths and kerbs, access road to service areas shall be in accordance with the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) and the detailed construction standards of the Planning Authority for such works.

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

10. (a) The car parking facilities hereby permitted shall be reserved solely to serve the proposed development. All car parking spaces shall be assigned permanently for the residential development and shall be reserved solely for that purpose. These residential spaces shall not be utilised for any other purpose.

(b) Prior to the occupation of the development, a Parking Management Plan shall be prepared for the development and shall be submitted to and agreed in writing with the Planning Authority.

**Reason:** To ensure that adequate parking facilities are permanently available to serve the proposed residential units and the remaining development.

11. A minimum of 10% of all car parking spaces should be provided with functioning EV charging stations/ points, and ducting shall be provided for all remaining car parking spaces, including in-curtilage spaces, facilitating the installation of EV charging points/stations at a later date. Where proposals relating to the installation of EV 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. The car parking spaces for sole use of the car sharing club shall also be provided with functioning EV charging stations/ points.

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

12. 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 and surface water management.

13. The developer shall enter into water and waste water connection agreement(s) with Uisce Eireann, prior to commencement of development.

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

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 interest of residential and visual amenity.

15. (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.

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 6 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.

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

17. 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.

18. The construction of the development shall be managed in accordance with a 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 provide details of intended construction practice for the development with measures to reflect mitigation described in the submitted EIA Screening Statement for the application, in addition to the following:

- a) Location of the site and materials compound(s) including area(s) identified for the storage of construction refuse;
- b) Location of access points to the site for any construction related activity;
- c) Location of areas for construction site offices and staff facilities;
- d) Details of site security fencing and hoardings;
- e) Details of on-site car parking facilities for site workers during the course of construction;
- f) 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;
- g) Measures to obviate queuing of construction traffic on the adjoining road network;
- h) Measures to prevent the spillage or deposit of clay, rubble or other debris on the public road network and for the cleaning of the same;
- i) 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;
- j) Details of appropriate mitigation measures for noise, dust and vibration, and monitoring of such levels;
- k) 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;
- l) Off-site disposal of construction/demolition waste and details of how it is proposed to manage excavated soil;

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

n) 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.

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

19. Site development and building works shall be carried out only between the hours of 0700 to 1900 Mondays to Fridays, from 0800 to 1400 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.

20. 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) engage the services of a suitably qualified archaeologist to co-ordinate the mitigation proposals contained in the Archaeological Assessment report for archaeological excavation (preservation by record) and archaeological monitoring of groundworks. The archaeologist will excavate and 'preserve by record areas 2B and 3B identified in the test phase and to monitor under licence all other groundworks associated with the development.

(b) should archaeological material be found during the course of monitoring, the archaeologist may have work on the site stopped, pending a decision as to how

best to deal with the archaeology. The developer shall be prepared to be advised by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage with regard to any necessary mitigating action (e.g. preservation *in situ*, or excavation) and should facilitate the archaeologist in recording any material found.

(c) the planning authority and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage shall be furnished with a report describing the results of the monitoring.

**Reason:** To ensure the continued preservation (either in situ or by record) of places, caves, site, features or other objects of archaeological interest.

21. 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 Act 2000, as amended, and of the housing strategy in the development plan of the area.

22. Prior to the commencement of any house or duplex unit in the development as permitted, the applicant or any person with an interest in the land shall enter into an agreement with the planning authority (such agreement must specify the

number and location of each house or duplex unit), pursuant to Section 47 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, that restricts all houses and duplex units permitted, to first occupation by individual purchasers i.e. those not being a corporate entity, and/or by those eligible for the occupation of social and/or affordable housing, including cost rental housing.

**Reason:** To restrict new housing development to use by persons of a particular class or description in order to ensure an adequate choice and supply of housing, including affordable housing, in the common good.

23. 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.

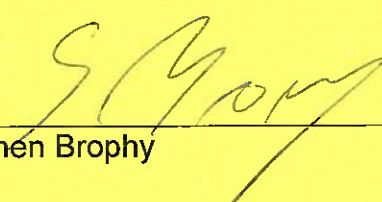
**Reason:** To ensure the satisfactory completion and maintenance of the development until taken in charge.

24. 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**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen Brophy

**Date:** 28/07/2023