



An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Direction
BD-014730-23
ABP-315107-22

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a Board meeting held on 29/11/2023.

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.

Reasons and Considerations

Having regard to the nature and scale of the proposed development, it is considered that, subject to compliance with the conditions set out below, the proposed development would be in accordance with the Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures – Guidelines for Planning Authorities 1996 and with the policies and objectives of the Westmeath County Development Plan 2021-2027, and would not seriously injure the visual or residential amenities of the area or the amenities of property in the vicinity of the site. The proposed development would, therefore, be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

The Board noted that the development is a project for the purposes of the EIA Directive. However, the Board concluded that the proposed development does not fall within a class of development set out in Part 1 or Part 2 of Schedule 5 to the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, and therefore no preliminary examination, screening for EIA or EIA is required.

Conditions

1. The development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the plans and particulars lodged with the application on the 4th of March 2022 as amended by further plans and particulars submitted on the 28th of September 2022, 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.

Reason: In the interest of clarity.

2. Drainage arrangements, including the 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.

3. 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. All landscaping shall be carried out no later than the first planting season following commencement of development on site. Existing hedgerows, trees and shrubs on site shall be preserved. All planting shall be adequately protected from damage until established. Any plants which die or become seriously damaged or diseased, 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 interest of visual amenity.

4. Details of the material finish and colour of the telecommunications support structure and associated equipment shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development.

Reason: In the interest of visual amenity.

5. The applicant shall provide and make available at reasonable terms, the proposed communications structure for the provision of mobile telecommunications antenna of third party licensed mobile telecommunications operators.

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

6. (a) In the event of the proposed structure becoming obsolete and being decommissioned, the developers shall, at their own expense, remove the mast, antenna and ancillary structures and equipment.
- (b) The site shall be reinstated upon the removal of the telecommunication structure and ancillary structures. Details of the reinstatement shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to the commencement of development.

Reason: In the interest of orderly development.

7. Site development and building works shall be carried out only between the hours of 0800 to 1800 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.

8. 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.

Board Member


Stewart Logan

Date: 29/11/2023