



An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Direction
BD-016814-24
ABP-319353-24

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a Board meeting held on 21/06/2024.

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

- a) The site's location proximate to the established urban area of Rathfarnham with a land-use zoning objective for 'RES - Existing Residential' in the South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028;
- b) The policies and objectives in the South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028;
- c) The nature, scale and design of the proposed development and the availability in the area of infrastructure;
- d) The pattern of existing and emerging development in the area;
- e) The provisions of Housing for All – A New Housing Plan for Ireland, 2021;
- f) The provisions of Project Ireland 2040 - National Planning Framework, which identifies the importance of compact growth;
- g) Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments, 2023;

- h) The Urban Development and Building Heights Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2018;
- i) The provisions of the Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements - Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2024);
- j) 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 Environment, Community and Local Government in 2019;
- k) The provisions of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (including the associated Technical Appendices) issued by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in 2009;
- l) The provisions of the Climate Action Plan 2024;
- m) The policies and objectives set out in the National Planning Framework;
- n) The policies and objectives of the Regional and Spatial Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly;
- o) The grounds of appeal received;
- p) Submissions received; and
- q) The Inspectors Report, which includes a full assessment of the proposed development as amended.

It is considered that, subject to compliance with the conditions set out below, the proposed development as amended would constitute an acceptable quantum, scale and density of residential development in this location, would not seriously injure the residential or visual amenities of the area or of property in the vicinity, would not cause serious injury to biodiversity and the natural environment, and would be acceptable in terms pedestrian, cyclist and traffic safety. 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 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 hydrological pathway considerations, submissions on file, the information submitted as part of the application 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.

Environmental Impact Assessment Screening

The Board completed preliminary examination for environmental impact assessment of the proposed development and concluded that it would not have the potential to have significant effects on the environment, having regard to:

- The nature and scale of the proposed development, which is under the mandatory threshold in respect of Class 10 - Infrastructure Projects of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended);
- The location of the site within the existing built-up urban area, which is served by public infrastructure, the site's limited ecological value and the existing pattern of development in the vicinity;
- The location of the site outside of any sensitive location specified in Article 109 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended);
- 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); and
- The criteria set out in Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended); and;

It is considered that the proposed development would not have the potential to have likely significant effects on the environment and that 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 the conditions outlined, the proposed development would be consistent with the provisions of the South Dublin County Development Plan 2022–2028, would be acceptable in terms of layout, scale, density and unit mix and would constitute an appropriate form of development at this serviced and residentially zoned location. 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, as amended by the plans and particulars received by An Bord Pleanála on the 20th day of March 2024 (Drawing No. SLN-00-SP-DR-JFA-AR-P1101, prepared by John Fleming Architects, and Drawings Nos. 2385-LDE-ZZ-ZZ-DR-SC-101, 2385-LDE-ZZ-ZZ-DR-SC-1C02, 2385-LDE-ZZ-ZZ-DR-SC-1C04 and 2385-LDE-ZZ-ZZ-DR-SC-1C07, prepared by Lohan & Donnelly Consulting Engineers), except as may otherwise be required in order to comply with the following conditions. Plans and particulars detailing the final layout and disposition of the overall development, including repositioned dwellings consequent on these amendments, shall be submitted to the planning authority and placed on the public file prior to commencement of development. 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. The proposed development shall be amended as follows:

- (a) An additional play space shall be introduced in the public open space area featuring along the site's Stocking Lane frontage (northern part).
- (b) Revised bin/bicycle storage arrangements shall be adopted in the context of Units 29, 30, 31 and 32 to reflect the aforementioned layout revisions.
- (c) The internal layouts of the proposed apartments shall be amended so that no individual storage room within an apartment/maisonette/duplex unit exceed 3.5 square metres.
- (d) The pedestrian access between Prospect Heath and the proposed development shall be joined to form a single footpath to the road crossing on Stocking Lane.
- (e) An updated 'taking in charge' plan.
- (f) A parking plan detailing the allocation of car spaces across the development.

Revised drawings showing compliance with this requirement 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 interest of residential amenity, pedestrian safety and orderly development.

3. The final layout and specifications for the following shall be agreed with the Planning Authority in writing prior to commencement of development:

- (a) Details of the temporary arrangement for the pedestrian connection to Coolamber.
- (b) Details of the cycle/pedestrian link to Springvale, including boundary wall heights and forward visibility for cyclists.

Reason: In the interests of permeability, sustainable transport, and community safety.

4. The development shall be carried out in accordance with a detailed phasing scheme, full details of which shall be submitted and agreed with the Planning Authority prior to the commencement of development. This phasing plan shall adopt a similar approach to phasing as that adopted in Drawing No. SLN-00-SP-DR-JFA-AR-P1104 accompanying the application.

Reason: In the interest of proper planning and orderly development and to ensure the timely provision of amenities and infrastructure for future residents.

5. All mitigation measures set out in the submitted Ecological Impact Assessment and Acoustic Design Statement shall be implemented in full in the carrying out and occupation of the permitted development.

Reason: In the interest of protecting the environment and residential amenity during the construction and operational phases of the development.

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

7. The permitted development shall be landscaped and boundary treatments provided in accordance with the detailed comprehensive scheme of landscaping and boundary treatments, details of which shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. 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 interest of residential and visual amenity.

8. The areas of public open space shown on the lodged plans shall be reserved for such use and shall be soiled, seeded, and landscaped in accordance with the landscape scheme agreed 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.

9. (a) The communal open spaces, including hard and soft landscaping, car parking areas and access ways, 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 in the interest of residential amenity.

10. The developer shall facilitate the archaeological appraisal of the site, including a programme of Archaeological Test Excavations, 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.

The assessment shall address the following issues:

- (i) the nature and location of archaeological material on the site, and
- (ii) the impact of the proposed development on such archaeological material.

A report, containing the results of the assessment, shall be submitted to the planning authority and, arising from this assessment, the developer shall agree in writing with the planning authority details regarding any further archaeological requirements (including, if necessary, archaeological excavation) prior to commencement of construction works. 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.

11. Public lighting shall be provided in accordance with a scheme (informed by the Ecological Impact Assessment accompanying the application), which shall include lighting for the public open spaces, communal spaces and parking / servicing areas, details of which shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. The design of the lighting scheme shall take into account the existing and permitted public lighting in the surrounding area. Such lighting shall be provided prior to the making available for occupation of any unit.

Reason: In the interests of amenity and public safety.

12. 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 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.

13. A plan containing details for the management of waste 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 and non-residential unit shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority not later than six months from the date of commencement of the development. Thereafter, the waste shall be managed in accordance with the agreed plan.

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

14. Prior to the commencement of development, the developer or any agent acting on its behalf, shall prepare a Resource Waste Management Plan (RWMP) as set out in the EPA's Best Practice Guidelines for the Preparation of Resource and Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Projects (2021) including demonstration of proposals to adhere to best practice and protocols. The RWMP shall include specific proposals as to how the RWMP will be measured and monitored for effectiveness; these details shall be placed on the file and retained as part of the public record. The RWMP must be submitted to the planning authority for written agreement prior to the commencement of development. All records (including for waste and all resources) pursuant to the agreed RWMP shall be made available for inspection at the site office at all times.

Reason: In the interest of sustainable waste management.

15. The construction of the development shall be managed in accordance with a final project Construction and 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 the construction practice for the development, including:

- a) Location of the site and materials compound(s), including areas identified for the storage of construction refuse;
- b) Location and details of areas for construction site offices, staff facilities, site security fencing and hoardings;
- c) Details of on-site car parking facilities for site workers during the course of construction;
- d) 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.
- e) Measures to obviate queuing of construction traffic on the adjoining road network;
- f) Details of construction phase mobility strategy, incorporating onsite mobility provisions;
- 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, cyclists 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 measures to mitigate vibration from construction activity in accordance with BS6472: 1992 Guide to Evaluation of Human Exposure to Vibration in Buildings (1Hz to 80Hz) and BS7385: Part 2 1990: Evaluation and Measurement for Vibration in Buildings - Guide to Damage Levels from Ground-Borne Vibration, and for the monitoring of such levels.
- j) Details of appropriate mitigation measures for noise and dust, 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 watercourses;
- n) A record of daily checks that the works are being undertaken in accordance with the final project Construction and Environmental Management Plan shall be kept for inspection by the planning authority;
- o) Invasive species management plan.

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

16. Site development and building works shall be carried out only between the hours of 07.00 to 19.00 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.

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

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

18. A minimum of 10% of all car parking spaces should be provided with functioning electric-vehicle charging stations/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-vehicle ducting and charging stations or 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.

19. 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.

20. In the context of the proposed apartment block, 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 otherwise agreed in writing with the Planning Authority.

Reason: To protect the visual amenities of the area.

21. 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.

22. Prior to commencement of development, the developer shall enter into water and wastewater connection agreement(s) with Uisce Éireann.

Reason: In the interest of public health.

23. 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.

24. 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, as amended, 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.

25. 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.

26. 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: the Board noted the inspector's recommendation to reassign private amenity space at unit nos 28-31 (nos 29-32 under the as lodged numbering), to provide balconies to the upper level units. However, the Board considered that the provision of an allocated garden area, even though not directly adjoining the upper level units, would nevertheless constitute a reasonable and appropriate private amenity space benefit to those units.

Board Member



Chris McGarry

Date: 21/06/2024