

An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

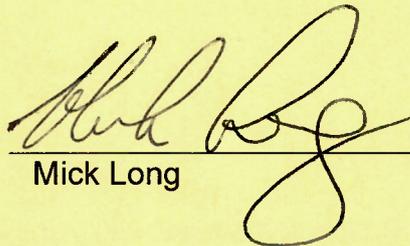
Direction
CD-021478-25
ACP-323332-25

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a meeting held on 04/12/2025.

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

Planning

Commissioner:


Mick Long

Date: 04/12/2025

DRAFT WORDING FOR ORDER

Reasons and Considerations

The Commission made its decision consistent with:

- the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, as amended;
- the Climate Action Plan 2024 and Climate Action Plan 2025.

Having regard to the provisions of the Offaly County Development Plan 2021-2027 and to the pattern of existing and permitted development in the area, it is considered that, subject to compliance with the conditions set out below, the proposed development would be in accordance with the policies and objectives of the Offaly

County Development Plan 2021-2027, would not seriously injure the residential and visual amenities of the area, would not devalue property in the area, and would align with national policy to achieve higher density and compact settlements in key towns. 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 further plans and particulars received by the planning authority on the 15th day of May 2025, 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. This permission is for the construction of 86 residential units comprising 16 number four-bedroom houses, 44 number three-bedroom houses, 18 number two-bedroom duplexes/apartments and eight number one-bedroom apartments.

Reason: In the interest of clarity.

3. Prior to commencement of the development, the developer shall submit a revised site layout plan for the written agreement of the planning authority to demonstrate the substitution of the three-storey apartment building (Type T) at numbers 7 and 8 Molloy Mews with a two-storey apartment building (Type S).

Reason: To protect the residential amenity of the adjoining permitted unit to the east.

4. Prior to commencement of development, the developer shall submit revised proposals for a vehicular, pedestrian and cycle link between the proposed Molloy Mews Street and Knockowen Road, for the written agreement of the planning authority. The boundary between Molloy Mews and Knockowen Road shall be removed to facilitate the building of a link road between the proposed estate and Knockowen Road.

Reason: To facilitate connectivity to adjoining lands and in the interest of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

5. All roads, footpaths and cycleways where applicable shown to adjoining lands shall be constructed up to the boundaries to provide access to adjoining lands with no obstruction including the erection of any structure which would otherwise constitute exempted development under the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended. These areas shall be shown in a drawing which shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development.

Reason: In the interest of permeability and proper planning and sustainable development.

6. The development shall be carried out on a phased basis, in accordance with a revised 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, for the benefit of the occupants of the proposed dwellings.

7. Details of the materials, colours and textures of all the external finishes to the proposed residential units shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. Roof colour shall be blue-black, black, dark brown or dark grey in colour only.

Reason: In the interest of visual amenity and to ensure an appropriate high standard of development.

8. (a) The internal road network serving the proposed development including turning bays, junctions, parking areas, footpaths, and kerbs shall comply with the detailed construction standards of the planning authority for such works and design standards outlined in Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS).

(b) Footpaths shall be dished at road junctions in accordance with the requirements of the planning authority.

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

9. Prior to the commencement of development the developer shall enter into a Connection Agreement (s) with Uisce Éireann (Irish Water) to provide for a service connection(s) to the public water supply and/or wastewater collection network.

Reason: In the interest of public health and to ensure adequate water/wastewater facilities.

10. 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.

11. 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.

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 interest of visual amenity.

13. Proposals for an estate/street name, house and apartment 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/apartment numbers, shall be provided in accordance with the agreed scheme. The proposed name(s) 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 placenames for new residential areas.

14. (a) The site shall be landscaped in accordance with the Landscape Plan (drawing number 7631-PHL-SW-ZZ-DR-L-3000-Rev 05) submitted to the planning authority on the 15th day of May, 2025. 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 or until the development is taken in charge by the local authority, whichever is the sooner, shall be replaced within the next planting season with others of similar size and species, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the planning authority.

- (b) Prior to commencement of development, the trees, hedging and shrubs which are to be retained shall be enclosed within stout fences not less than 1.5 metres in

height. This protective fencing shall enclose an area covered by the crown spread of the branches, or at minimum radius of two metres from the trunk of the tree or centre of the shrub, and to a distance of two metres on each side of the hedge for its full length, and shall be maintained until the development has been completed.

(c) No construction equipment, machinery or materials shall be brought onto the site for the purpose of the development until all the trees which are to be retained have been protected by this fencing. No work shall be carried out within the area enclosed by the fencing and, in particular, there shall be no parking of vehicles, placing of site huts, storage compounds or topsoil heaps, storage of oil, chemicals or other substances, and no lighting of fires, over the root spread of any tree to be retained.

Reason: In the interest of visual amenity and to protect trees and planting during the construction period.

15. The areas of public open space shown on the lodged plans shall be reserved for such use. These areas shall be levelled, soiled, seeded and landscaped in accordance with the landscaping scheme submitted to the planning authority on the 15th day of May 2025. This work shall be completed before any of the residential units are made available for occupation and shall be maintained as public open space by the developer until taken in charge by the local authority.

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

16. (a) Unless otherwise detailed in this Order, boundary treatments shall be in accordance with drawing number 2207-KLA-00-00-DR-A-028 P03 received by the planning authority on the 15th day of May 2025.

(b) Rear boundary treatments on dwelling unit numbers 1 to 6 on Molloy Mews shall consist of a 2.1 metre high cavity block wall capped and rendered along public facing walls with appropriate native hedgerow planting on the public facing side of the wall.

(c) Native species hedgerow shall be planted on the public side of all walls indicated as '2.1 metre high fair faced concrete wall capped and rendered' in the above-mentioned boundary treatment plan.

(d) All bin storage shall be fully enclosed structures with closable doors.

Reason: In the interests of the visual and residential amenities of the area.

17. The Swift nest boxes on the proposed Types S, T and U blocks shall be made operational prior to occupation of these residential units.

Reason: In the interest of wildlife protection.

18. A plan containing details for the management of waste within the apartments, 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 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.

19. Construction traffic shall access the subject site solely from the existing construction access on Clara Road leading into Kearney's Avenue.

Reason: In the interests of clarity and traffic and pedestrian safety.

20. 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, including:

- (a) location of the site and materials compound(s) including area(s) identified for the storage of construction refuse;
- (b) location of areas for construction site offices and staff facilities;
- (c) details of site security fencing and hoardings;
- (d) details of on-site car parking facilities for site workers during the course of construction;
- (e) 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;
- (f) measures to obviate queuing of construction traffic on the adjoining road network;
- (g) measures to prevent the spillage or deposit of clay, rubble or other
- (h) 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;
- (i) details of appropriate mitigation measures for noise, dust and vibration, and monitoring of such levels;
- (j) 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;
- (k) 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; and

(n) a record of daily checks that the works are being undertaken in accordance with the Construction Management Plan shall be available for inspection by the planning authority.

Reason: In the interests of amenities, public health and safety and environmental protection.

21. Prior to commencement of development, 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) shall be prepared and submitted to the planning authority for written agreement. The RWMP shall include specific proposals as to how the RWMP will be measured and monitored for effectiveness. 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 reducing waste and encouraging recycling.

22. The development hereby permitted shall be carried out and completed at least to the construction standards set out in the planning authority's Residential Site Development Standards document. Following completion, the development shall be maintained by the developer, in compliance with these standards, until taken in charge by the planning authority.

Reason: To ensure that the development is carried out and completed to an acceptable standard of construction.

23. (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 development in the interest of residential amenity.

24. Public lighting shall be provided in accordance with a scheme, details of 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 for occupation of any residential unit.

Reason: In the interests of amenity and public safety.

25. (a) 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 relevant 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.

(b) An agreement pursuant to Section 47 shall be applicable for the period of duration of the planning permission, except where after not less than two years

from the date of completion of each specified housing unit, it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the planning authority that it has not been possible to transact each specified house or duplex unit for use by individual purchasers and/or to those eligible for the occupation of social and/or affordable housing, including cost rental housing.

(c) The determination of the planning authority as required in (b) shall be subject to receipt by the planning and housing authority of satisfactory documentary evidence from the applicant or any person with an interest in the land regarding the sales and marketing of the specified housing units, in which case the planning authority shall confirm in writing to the applicant or any person with an interest in the land that the Section 47 agreement has been terminated and that the requirement of this planning condition has been discharged in respect of each specified housing unit.

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.

26. 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 the provision of housing on lands in accordance with the requirements of section 94(4) and section 96(2) and 96(3) (b), (Part V) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, unless an exemption certificate has been granted under section 97 of the Act, as amended. Where such an agreement cannot be reached between the parties, the matter in dispute (other than a matter to which section 96(7) applies) shall be referred by the planning authority or any other prospective party to the agreement, to An Coimisiún 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 for the area.

27. 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 Coimisiún Pleanála for determination.

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

28. 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 Coimisiún 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.