

An Bord Pleanála



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTS 2000 TO 2015

Wexford County

Planning Register Reference Number: 20160261

An Bord Pleanála Reference Number: PL 26.246680

APPEAL by Sean and Michael Kelly care of Tom Phillips and Associates of 80 Harcourt Street, Dublin against the decision made on the 6th day of May, 2016 by Wexford County Council to refuse permission.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT: Continued operation for a period of 25 years of the existing quarry permitted under planning register reference number 20082323 and the extension of the quarry onto adjoining lands to the west. The quarry extension is sought to a maximum depth of circa 37 metres OD. The proposed extension will not result in an increase in the permitted extraction rate (125,000 tonnes per annum). The proposed development includes all ancillary site development, areas of stockpiling, landscaping and boundary treatment works above and below ground, including the restoration of the final pit void (extractive area), all on this site of circa 15.02 hectares at Ballinrooaun, Screen, County Wexford.

DECISION

REFUSE permission for the above proposed development based on the reasons and considerations set out below.

MATTERS CONSIDERED

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

1. Having regard to the extent and characteristics of the sand and gravel quarry development proposed and to the site's location in and adjoining the Screen Hills proposed Natural Heritage Area, a "kettle and kame" post-glacial landscape of low hills and small lakes which is unique in and to County Wexford, wherein it is considered preferable in the current Wexford County Development Plan (Policy ED09) to take a precautionary approach to significant detrimental impacts by emphasising avoidance rather than mitigation. It is considered that the proposed development materially contravenes policy ED09 and is, therefore, contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.
2. It is considered that the proposed development, by reason of its extent and its elevated and prominent location within the Screen Hills Landscape of Greater Sensitivity, would create a significant and unnatural feature in the landscape which would have a negative impact on the visual amenities of a wide area. The proposed development would be contrary to Objectives L03, L04, L06 and Section 18.16 of the current Wexford County Development Plan and to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

**Member of An Bord Pleanála
duly authorised to authenticate
the seal of the Board.**

Dated this day of 2016.