

Board Order PL 11.248244

Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2016

Planning Authority: Laois County

Planning Register Reference Number: 16/505

Appeal by JBM Solar Developments Limited care of Tom Phillips and Associates of 80 Harcourt Street, Dublin in relation to the application by Laois County Council of the terms of the Development Contribution Scheme made for the area in respect of condition number 6 of its decision made on the 27th day of February, 2017.

Proposed Development: A 10 year permission for the construction of a Solar PV Energy Development comprising installation of photovoltaic panels on ground mounted frames/support structures; underground cabling and ducting; three number inverter/transformer stations with two number HV cabins; one number communications and storage structure; two number substations; perimeter (stock proof) security fencing (two metres high, circa 13.91 hectares); CCTV security cameras; site access road; landscaping and all associated ancillary site development works. Temporary works will also include a construction compound and passing-bay adjoining the existing access road on site of circa 15.26 hectares at Sronagh, Mountmellick, County Laois.

Decision

The Board, in accordance with section 48 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, considered, based on the reasons and considerations set out below, that the terms of the Development Contribution Scheme for the area had been properly applied in respect of condition number 6 and directs the said Council to ATTACH condition number 6 and the reason therefor.

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

It is considered that the terms of the Laois County Council Development Contribution Scheme 2013-2017 have been properly applied in respect of the subject development, in that the terms of the scheme require payment in respect of renewable energy installations on the basis of €1,000 per 0.1 MW generated, and the subject development was for a solar farm generating up to 10 MW.

In not accepting the Inspector's recommendation to require that condition number 6 be amended in order to reduce the amount of the financial contribution, the Board noted that the terms of the Laois County Council Development Contribution Scheme relates to the amount of electricity generated by renewable energy installations, rather than the amount of electricity exported to the national grid from those installations.

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

Dated this day of 2017

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