



Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2018

Planning Authority: Galway City Council

Application for permission under section 4 of the Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act 2016, in accordance with plans and particulars, lodged with An Bord Pleanála on the 28th day of February 2019 by The National University of Ireland Galway care of McCarthy Keville O'Sullivan Limited, Block 1, G.F.S.C., Moneenageisha Road, Galway.

Proposed Development:

A planning permission for a strategic housing development at the National University of Ireland Galway, Northern Campus, Dangan, Upper Newcastle Road, Galway.

The proposed development will consist of:

- Construction of a student accommodation scheme, comprising 125 number apartments with 674 number bed spaces, arranged as:
 - 85 units of six en-suite bedrooms,
 - 4 units of five en-suite bedrooms and
 - 36 units of four en-suite bedrooms,with communal living areas in each unit.
- Further communal areas and facilities, multi-purpose spaces, ancillary office/reception accommodation, internal plant/service rooms, general storage, refuse storage and a maintenance/workshop area are also provided to service the entire development (gross external floor area 23,858 square metres).

- The proposed accommodation is arranged in four number blocks with Block A ranging from four to eight storeys, Block B and D extend to six storeys and Block C comprises four storeys.
- A commercial/retail space (325 square metres) is provided in Block A.
- The development will include site landscaping and boundary treatment, footpath and cyclist links to the campus network, building signage and all associated works.
- A dedicated Biodiversity Enhancement Area, outside the construction footprint, will be managed to enhance biodiversity. This is included within the red line planning boundary for the development.
- Proposed changes to the National University of Ireland Galway internal road network, including the provision of an access road and a pick-up/drop-off area.
- Parking provision including seven number accessible parking bays, four number parking bays associated with the commercial/retail development and a delivery set-down area are provided on site.
- A total of 376 number bicycle parking spaces (310 number spaces for students, 63 number visitor spaces and three number bicycle spaces to serve the commercial/retail space).
- Underground connections to services and all associated works.
- The proposed development will also be available for short-term visitor letting during the summer months.

Decision

Grant permission for the above proposed development in accordance with the said plans and particulars based on the reasons and considerations under and subject to the conditions 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

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

- (a) the site's location within the campus of the National University of Ireland Galway;
- (b) the policies and objectives in the Galway City Development Plan 2017-2023;
- (c) the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness 2016;
- (d) the National Student Accommodation Strategy 2017;
- (e) the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) issued by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government in March 2013;
- (f) the nature, scale and design of the proposed development;
- (g) the pattern of existing and permitted development in the area;
- (h) the submissions and observations received, and
- (i) the report of the Inspector.

It is considered that, subject to compliance with the conditions set out below, the proposed development would not seriously injure the residential or visual amenities of the area or of property in the vicinity, would respect the existing character of the area, would be acceptable in terms of pedestrian and traffic safety and convenience and would not have any adverse impacts in terms of biodiversity. The proposed development would, therefore, be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Appropriate Assessment Screening

The Board accepted and adopted the screening assessment carried out by the Inspector and the conclusion in the Inspector's report in respect of the identification of the European sites which could potentially be affected, and the identification and assessment of the potential likely significant effects of the proposed development, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, on these European sites in view of the sites' conservation objectives. The Board was satisfied that the proposed development, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, would not be likely to have a significant effect on the following European Sites: Connemara Bog Complex Special Area of Conservation (site code 002034), Ross Lake and Woods Special Area of Conservation (site code 001312), Gortnandarragh Limestone Pavement Special Area of Conservation (site code 001271), Lough Corrib Special Protection Area (site code 004042) and Cregganna Marsh Special Protection Area (site code 004142) in view of the conservation objectives of these sites and having regard to the nature of the proposed development.

Appropriate Assessment

The Board was satisfied that the information before it was adequate to undertake an Appropriate Assessment in respect of the subject development, in relation to the remaining European sites identified by the Inspector, that is, the Lough Corrib Special Area of Conservation (site code 000297), Galway Bay Complex Special Area of Conservation (site code 000268) and Inner Galway Bay Special Protection Area (site code 004031). Having regard to the nature, scale and location of the development, the documentation including submissions on file, the Natura Impact Statement submitted by the applicant, and the Inspector's report, the Board undertook an Appropriate Assessment in relation to the effects of the development on these European sites in view of their conservation objectives. The Board concurred with the analysis and conclusions of the Inspector and adopted her report. The Board was satisfied that the proposed development, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, and having regard to the mitigation measures outlined by the applicant, would not adversely affect the integrity of the

Lough Corrib Special Area of Conservation (site code 000297), Galway Bay Complex Special Area of Conservation (site code 000268) and Inner Galway Bay Special Protection Area (site code 004031), in view of the conservation objectives of these sites.

Environmental Impact Assessment Screening

The Board completed an environmental impact assessment screening of the proposed development and considered that the Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report submitted by the applicant, identifies and describes adequately the direct, indirect, secondary, and cumulative effects of the proposed development on the environment.

Having regard to:

- (a) the nature and scale of the proposed development on an urban site served by public infrastructure,
- (b) the absence of any significant environmental sensitivities in the area,
- (c) the location of the development outside of any sensitive location specified in article 109(3) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended),

the Board concluded that, by reason of the nature, scale and location of the subject site, the proposed development would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment. The Board decided, therefore, that an environmental impact assessment report for the proposed development was not necessary in this case.

Conditions

1. The development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the plans and particulars lodged with the application, 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. In default of agreement, the matter(s) in dispute shall be referred to An Board Pleanála for determination.

Reason: In the interest of clarity.

2. The development hereby permitted shall only be occupied as student accommodation, as defined in section 13(d) of the Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act 2016, and shall not be used for any other purpose, without a prior grant of planning permission for change of use.

Reason: In the interest of residential amenity and to limit the scope of the proposed development to that for which the application was made

3. Prior to the commencement of development, the four surface car parking spaces serving the retail unit within Block A shall be omitted. The details shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority.

Reason: In the interests of proper planning and sustainable development.

4. Prior to the commencement of development, the applicant shall submit for the written agreement of the planning authority a full detailed plan setting out how the student accommodation and complex shall be operated and managed.

Reason: In the interest of the amenities of occupiers of the units and surrounding properties.

5. The landscaping scheme shown on drawing number NUI2-MAS-XX-XX-DR-L-0100, as submitted to the An Bord Pleanála on the 28th day of February 2019 shall be carried out within the first planting season following substantial completion of external construction works.

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.

6. A qualified Landscape Architect shall be employed to manage monitor and implement the permitted landscape proposals.

Reason: To ensure implementation of the approved landscape design proposals for the permitted development, to the approved standards and specification.

7. All trees and hedgerows within and on the boundaries of the site shall be retained and maintained, with the exception of the following:
 - (a) Specific trees, the removal of which is authorised in writing by the planning authority to facilitate the development.
 - (b) Trees which are agreed in writing by the planning authority to be dead, dying or dangerous through disease or storm damage, following submission of a qualified tree surgeon's report, and which shall be replaced with agreed specimens.

Retained trees and hedgerows shall be protected from damage during construction works. Within a period of six months following the substantial completion of the proposed development any planting which is damaged, or dies, shall be replaced with others of similar size and species, together with replacement planting required under paragraph (b) of this condition.

Reason: In the interest of visual amenity.

8. Details of the future management of the Biodiversity Enhancement Area shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to the commencement of the development.

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

9. The following requirements in terms of traffic, transportation and mobility shall be incorporated and where required, revised drawings / reports showing compliance with these requirements shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development:
 - (a) The roads and traffic arrangements serving the site (including footpath connections and signage) shall be in accordance with the detailed requirements of the planning authority for such works and shall be

carried out at the developer's expense.

- (b) Prior to occupation of the student accommodation, the developer shall construct the footpath and linkages to the main campus network in accordance with the National University of Ireland Galway masterplan in accordance with details to be submitted and agreed with the planning authority.
- (c) The roads layout including junctions, parking areas, footpaths, cycle paths and kerbs, pedestrian crossings, car parking bay sizes and road access to the development shall comply with the requirements of the Design Manual for Roads and Streets and with any requirements of the planning authority for such road works.
- (d) Cycle tracks within the development shall be in accordance with the guidance provided in the National Cycle Manual.
- (e) The materials used in any roads/footpaths/set down areas provided by the developer shall comply with the detailed standards of the planning authority for such road works.
- (f) A Mobility Management Plan for the student accommodation shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to the commencement of the development.
- (g) A parking protocol and management regime which will prohibit usage of the National University of Ireland Galway park and ride car park by occupants of the student accommodation during term time shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to the commencement of the development.

Reason: In the interests of traffic, cyclist and pedestrian safety.

10. Details of the public lighting scheme, including measures to comply with the requirements set out in the Habitat Management Plan, 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 unit.

Reason: In the interests of amenity and public safety.

11. Water supply and drainage arrangements, including the attenuation and disposal of surface water, shall comply with the requirements of the planning authority for such works and services. In addition, the proposed development shall be constructed in accordance with the finished floor levels and with a flood resilient design as specified in the Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment in order to mitigate against the risk of flooding.

Reason: In the interest of public health.

12. Proposals for a building name, unit numbering scheme and associated signage shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. Thereafter, all building and street signs, and unit numbers, shall be provided in accordance with the agreed scheme. The proposed name 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 of the development shall be erected until the developer has obtained the planning authority's written agreement to the proposed name.

Reason: In the interest of urban legibility and to ensure the use of locally appropriate place names for new residential areas.

13. The mitigation measures outlined in the Ecology Impact Assessment and Natura Impact Assessment submitted with this application shall be carried out in full, except where otherwise required by conditions of this permission.

Reason: To protect the environment.

14. 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.

15. (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, or any statutory provision amending or replacing them, no advertisement signs (including any signs installed to be visible through the windows), advertisement structures, banners, canopies, flags, or other projecting elements shall be displayed or erected on the buildings or within the curtilage of the site, unless authorised by a further grant of planning permission.
- (b) No roller shutters shall be erected on the exterior of the building at any doors/entrances to the student accommodation facility, or along any part of the external glazing of the building at ground floor level.

Reason: In the interest of visual amenity, and to permit the planning authority to assess all signage on this site through the statutory planning process.

16. Details of the materials, colours and textures of all the external finishes to the proposed buildings shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development.

Reason: In the interest of the visual amenities of the area.

17. 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 authorised by a further grant of planning permission.

Reason: To protect the residential amenities of property in the vicinity and the visual amenities of the area.

18. Site development and building works shall be carried out only between 0800 to 1900 hours 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 amenities of property in the vicinity.

19. A Construction and Demolition Waste Management Plan shall be prepared in accordance with the Best Practice Guidelines on the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Projects published by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in July 2006, and shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of the development. This shall include details of waste to be generated during site clearance and construction phases and details of the methods and locations to be employed for the prevention, minimisation, recovery and disposal of this material.

Reason: In the interest of orderly development and sustainable waste management.

20. (a) During the operational phase of the proposed development, the noise level arising from the development, as measured at the nearest dwelling shall not exceed:
- (i) An Leq,1h value of 55 dB(A) during the period 0800 to 2200 hours from Monday to Saturday inclusive.
 - (ii) An Leq,15 min value of 45 dB(A) at any other time. The noise at such time shall not contain a tonal component.
- (b) All sound measurement shall be carried out in accordance with ISO Recommendation 1996:2007: Acoustics - Description and Measurement of Environmental Noise.

Reason: To protect the residential amenities of property in the vicinity of the site.

21. A plan containing details of 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 provision of these facilities, shall be submitted to and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of the development.

Reason: To provide for the appropriate management of waste and, in particular recyclable materials, in the interest of protecting the environment.

22. All service cables associated with the proposed development (such as electrical, communal television, telephone and public lighting cables) shall be run underground within the site. In this regard, ducting shall be provided to facilitate the provision of broadband infrastructure within the proposed development.

Reason: In the interest of orderly development and the visual amenities of the area.

23. 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 and location of proposed construction compounds, details of intended construction practice for the development, including noise management measures and off-site disposal of construction/demolition waste.

Reason: In the interests of public safety and residential amenity.

24. Prior to commencement of development, the developer shall lodge with the planning authority a cash deposit, a bond of an insurance company, or such other security as may be acceptable to the planning authority, to secure the reinstatement of public roads which may be damaged by the transport of materials to the site, coupled with an agreement empowering the planning authority to apply such security or part thereof to the satisfactory reinstatement of the public road. 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: In the interest of traffic safety and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

25. 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.

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

Dated this day of 2019