



Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2018

Planning Authority: Louth County 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 8th day of March 2019 by Jan C. Van Dijk care of Stephen Ward Town Planning and Development Consultants Limited, Jocelyn House, Jocelyn Street, Dundalk, County Louth.

Proposed Development:

A planning permission for a strategic housing development at Inner Relief Road (R215), and Dublin Road (R132), Dundalk, County Louth.

The development will consist of 142 number apartments:

- 58 number one-bed,
- 64 number two-bed, and
- 20 number three-bed

in five buildings, ranging in height from two to five storey on a site measuring 2.16 hectares including a crèche (122 square metres) and community room (122 square metres) together with parking, roadways and ancillary site works including works to the public road, landscaping and boundary treatments.

Provision is made for the installation of solar/photovoltaic panels on the roofs of each building the direction of which will depend on orientation.

The application also includes a new vehicular access via a roadway and new entrance off the R215 Inner Relief Road (this access was permitted under planning

reference 16/803 (An Bord Pleanála reference PL15.247927)) and a dedicated pedestrian/cycle link to Dublin Road (R132).

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 adjoining the established settlement of Dundalk, Co. Louth on lands with a zoning objective 'To provide for employment and supporting residential' in the Dundalk and Environs Development Plan 2009-2015 (as extended);
- (b) the policies and objectives in the Louth County Development Plan 2015-2021;
- (c) the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness 2016;
- (d) the Guidelines for Sustainable Residential Developments in Urban Areas and the accompanying Urban Design Manual – a Best Practice Guide, issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in May 2009;

- (e) the Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments Guidelines for Planning Authorities issued by the Department of the Housing, Planning and Local Government in March 2018;
- (f) 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;
- (g) the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (including the associated Technical Appendices), 2009;
- (h) the nature, scale and design of the proposed development;
- (i) the availability in the area of a wide range of social and transport infrastructure;
- (j) the pattern of existing and permitted development in the area;
- (k) the submissions and observations received, and
- (l) 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 give rise to flooding in the area. 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 any European Sites in view of the conservation objectives of these sites and that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not, therefore, required.

Environmental Impact Assessment Screening

The Board completed an environmental impact assessment screening of the proposed development and considered that the Environmental Impact Assessment Report Screening document 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, such issues may be referred to An Bord Pleanála for determination.

Reason: In the interest of clarity.

2. The development shall be carried out on a phased basis, in accordance with a 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, and the provision of the new junction and access from the R215, for the benefit of the occupants of the proposed units.

3. The proposed development shall be modified as follows with regard to pedestrian/cycle and roads requirements:
 - (a) The roads and traffic arrangements serving the site (including road 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) The vehicular access from the R215 and the pedestrian / cycle link to the R132, along with associated pedestrian and cycle facilities, 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.
 - (c) The internal road network serving the proposed development including turning bays, junctions, parking areas, footpaths, cycle paths and kerbs, pedestrian crossings, car parking bay sizes and road access to commercial parking shall comply with the requirements of the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets, in particular carriageway widths and corner radii, and cycle tracks within the development shall be in accordance with the guidance provided in the National Cycle Manual.
 - (d) The materials used in any roads/footpaths provided by the developer shall comply with the detailed standards of the planning authority for such road works.
 - (e) The developer shall carry out a Stage 3 Road Safety Audit of the constructed development on completion of the works, which shall be submitted to the planning authority for its written agreement. The developer shall carry out all agreed recommendations contained in the audit, at his expense.

- (f) A Mobility Management Plan for the development, to include parking management, shall be prepared and submitted to the planning authority for its written consent prior to the commencement of development.
- (g) Car parking and cycle parking shall comply with the requirements of the planning authority. The proposed cycle parking provision shall be revised such that an additional 33 no. cycle parking spaces are provided.
- (h) A public lighting plan shall be submitted to the planning authority.

Revised drawings and particulars showing compliance with these requirements 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 interests of pedestrian, cyclist and traffic safety and to provide adequate bicycle parking in line with the applicable standards, including that set out in section 4.17 of the Design Standards for New Apartments.

- 4. The materials, colours and finishes of the authorised buildings, the treatment of boundaries within the development and the landscaping of the site shall generally be in accordance with the details submitted with the application, subject to the following amendments:
 - (a) The proposed wood cladding finishes to the apartment blocks shall be replaced by more durable finishes.
 - (b) Details of all boundaries shared with adjoining residential properties shall be agreed with the planning authority.

Details showing the required amendments shall be submitted to and agreed in writing with the planning authority prior to the commencement of development.

Reason: In the interests of visual and residential amenity.

5. 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.

6. Prior to commencement of development, the developer shall submit to and agree in writing with the planning authority a properly constituted Owners' Management Company. Membership of this company shall be compulsory for all purchasers of apartments in the development. Confirmation that this company has been set up shall be submitted to the planning authority prior to the making available for occupation by the developer of the first residential unit.

Reason: To provide for the satisfactory completion and maintenance of the development in the interest of residential amenity.

7. (a) Prior to commencement of development, the developer shall submit to, and obtain the written consent of, the planning authority for:
 - (i) A tree protection plan.
 - (ii) A programme of tree surgery works.
 - (iii) A detailed landscaping plan including specific details as to the plant sizes and species to be used.
 - (iv) Details of root zone design and specification for street trees proposed.
 - (v) Detailed design proposals for the proposed play area.
 - (vi) Details of all proposed hard surface finishes, including samples of

proposed paving slabs/materials for footpaths, kerbing and road surfaces within the development.

(vii) Details of all boundary treatments.

(viii) An invasive species management plan.

- (b) The central public open spaces shall be developed and left free from any development and shall not be enclosed by any means.
- (c) A suitably qualified Landscape Architect shall be appointed prior to the commencement of any development on the subject site to oversee and monitor the project construction and early operational stages of development in regard to the implementation and monitoring of tree protection measures outlined in the environmental report received by the planning authority.
- (d) Landscaping of the overall development shall be carried out in accordance with the agreed landscaping plan and shall be carried out and completed prior to the completion of development and prior to the occupation of any units hereby permitted.

Reason: To protect the amenity value of existing trees and ensure a high-quality landscape design throughout the scheme in the interest of proper planning and sustainable development.

- 8. The proposed development shall make provision for the charging of electrical vehicles. All car parking spaces shall be provided with electrical connections, to allow for the provision of future charging points and in the case of 10% of each of these spaces, shall be provided with electrical charging points by the developer. Details of how it is proposed to comply with these requirements, including details of design of, and signage for, the electrical charging points and the provision for the operation and maintenance of the charging points (where they are not in the areas to be taken in charge) shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development.

Reason: In the interests of pedestrian, cyclist and traffic safety, to protect residential amenity and in the interest of sustainable transportation.

9. No additional development shall take place above roof parapet level, including 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.

10. 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.

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.

Reason: In the interest of public health.

12. 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 shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. Thereafter, the waste shall be managed in accordance with the agreed plan.

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

13. 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, noise management measures and off-site disposal of construction/demolition waste.

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

14. 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 residential amenities of property in the vicinity.

15. Construction and demolition waste shall be managed in accordance with a construction waste and demolition management plan, which shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. This 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.

Reason: In the interest of sustainable waste management.

16. A detailed construction traffic management plan shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. The plan shall include details of arrangements for routes for construction traffic and parking for construction workers during the construction phase, and arrangements for delivery of abnormal loads to the site.

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

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. 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.

20. 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

