

Board Order ABP-304001-19

Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015

Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2019

Planning Authority: Laois County Council

Planning Authority Reference Number: VSL/PL/2016/11

Appeal by Kyle Estates Limited care of BMA Planning of Taney Hall, Eglinton Terrace, Dundrum, Dublin in accordance with section 9(1) of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 against the entry on the Vacant Sites Register by Laois County Council on the 21st day of February, 2019 in respect of the site described below.

Description: Lands at former Centrepoint Building, Mountrath Road, Portlaoise, County Laois.

Decision

The Board in accordance with section 9(3) of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015, and based on the reasons and considerations set out below, hereby determines that the above site was not a vacant site within the meaning of that Act for the period concerned.

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

Having regard to:

- (a) the information submitted to the Board by the planning authority in relation to the entry of the site on the Vacant Sites Register,
- (b) the grounds of appeal submitted by the appellant,
- (c) the report of the Inspector,
- (d) the fenced-off nature of the site and the absence of evidence of anti-social behaviour on the site, and
- (e) the lack of visibility of the interior of the site from the public realm,

it is considered that, while the majority of the site is vacant or idle, the site does not have adverse affects on existing amenities or reduce the amenity provided by existing infrastructure and facilities in the area and does not have adverse affects on the character of the area.

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The Board considered that it is appropriate that a notice be issued to the planning authority to cancel the entry on the Vacant Sites Register.

In deciding not to accept the Inspector's recommendation to confirm the entry on the Vacant Sites Register, the Board did not agree that the site has adverse affects on the character or the amenities of the area.

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

Dated this day of 2019

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