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## **Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2019**

### **Planning Authority: Cork 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 2nd day of May 2019 and submitted to the oral hearing on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of September 2019 by Cairn Homes Properties Limited care of McCutcheon Halley Chartered Planning Consultants, 6 Joyce House, Barrack Square, Ballincollig, County Cork.

#### **Proposed Development:**

A planning permission for a strategic housing development at Castletreasure/ Maryborough (townlands), Carr's Hill/Carrigaline Road (R609), Douglas, County Cork.

The proposed development will consist of the construction of a strategic housing development comprising 472 number residential units, a crèche and all associated ancillary development works. The proposed 472 number residential units are broken down as follows:

- (a) 234 number semi-detached and terraced houses comprising 67 number four-bed units and 167 number three-bed units;
- (b) 93 number duplexes/apartments and 145 number apartments (in Blocks A, B, C and D) comprising 76 number one-bed units, 123 number two-bed units and 39 number three-bed units.

The development also includes a number of play areas, active amenity spaces and circa 4.4 hectares of landscaped parkland which runs northwest to southeast

through the site. A section of the Ballybrack Greenway is also provided within the parkland which will connect to the existing Cork County Council cycle network at the site's western boundary via the existing Irish Water pumping station compound, and to the future expansion of the Greenway towards Maryborough at the site's eastern boundary.

Primary access to the proposed development will be from a new signalised junction on to Carr's Hill/Carrigaline Road (R609), which will also serve a 24-number classroom Primary School (permitted under Cork County Council planning application reference 18/5369 / An Bord Pleanála reference ABP-302924-18) and which is located on land within the ownership of the applicant. Upgrades are also proposed to the Carr's Hill/Carrigaline Road (R609) including road widening, traffic calming and footpath connections. A second access point and footpath connections will be provided onto the Carr's Hill/Carrigaline Road (R609) (serving 98 number apartments in Blocks B, C and D only) and access will also be provided via the adjoining Temple Grove residential area.

Provision is also made for the diversion of the existing 300 millimetre Irish Water watermain, the construction of an underground wastewater pumping station and rising main to serve Apartment Blocks B, C and D, and all other associated ancillary site development works including ground works and retaining structures, foul drainage, stormwater drainage, water supply, seven number electrical substation kiosks, service ducting and cabling, boundary treatments, access roads including a vehicular and pedestrian bridge over the Moneygurney Stream, gateway treatment/signage on the Carr's Hill/Carrigaline Road (R609), bicycle and car parking and landscaping. A temporary single storey marketing suite, adjoining the Carr's Hill/Carrigaline Road (R609), and signage (including hoarding) will be provided during the construction phases.

## **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 policies and objectives in the Cork County Development Plan 2014 and Ballincollig Carrigaline Municipal District Local Area Plan 2017;
- (b) the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness 2016;
- (c) 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;
- (d) 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;
- (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 Urban Development and Buildings Heights, Guidelines for Planning Authorities, prepared by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in December 2018;
- (g) the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (including the associated Technical Appendices) issued by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2009;
- (h) the nature, scale and design of the proposed development;
- (i) the availability in the area of a wide range of social infrastructure;
- (j) the pattern of existing and permitted development in the area;
- (k) the planning history within the area;

- (l) the submissions and observations received, including the submissions made to the oral hearing on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of September 2019, and
- (m) the report of the Inspector.

## **Appropriate Assessment Screening**

In completing the screening for Appropriate Assessment, the Board accepted and adopted the screening assessment and conclusion carried out in the Inspector's reports 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 site's 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 other European sites, in view of the site's conservation objectives other than Cork Harbour Special Protection Area (site code 004030).

## **Appropriate Assessment**

The Board agreed with the screening assessment and conclusion carried out in the Inspector's report that the Cork Harbour Special Protection Area (site code 004030) is the European site for which there is a likelihood of significant effects.

The Board considered the Natura Impact Statement and all other relevant submissions and carried out an Appropriate Assessment of the implications of the proposed development for nearby European sites in view of the sites' conservation objectives including Cork Harbour Special Protection Area (site code 004030). The Board considered that the information before it was adequate to allow the carrying out of an Appropriate Assessment.

In completing the assessment, the Board considered, in particular, the

- (a) likely direct and indirect impacts arising from the proposed development both individually or in combination with other plans or projects,
- (b) mitigation measures which are included as part of the current proposal,

- (c) conservation objectives for these European sites.

In completing the Appropriate Assessment, the Board accepted and adopted the Appropriate Assessment carried out in the Inspector's report in respect of the potential effects of the proposed development on the aforementioned European site, having regard to the site's conservation objectives.

In the overall conclusion, the Board was satisfied that the proposed development would not adversely affect the integrity of the European site in view of the site's conservation objectives.

## **Environmental Impact Assessment**

The Board completed an environmental impact assessment of the proposed development, taking into account:

- (a) The nature, scale and extent of the proposed development;
- (b) The environmental impact assessment report and associated documentation submitted in support of the planning application;
- (c) The submissions from the planning authority, the observers and the prescribed bodies in the course of the application including the Oral Hearing; and
- (d) The Inspector's reports.

The Board considered that the environmental impact assessment report, supported by the documentation submitted by the applicant, adequately identifies and describes the direct, indirect, secondary and cumulative effects of the proposed development on the environment.

The Board agreed with the examination, set out in the Inspector's reports, of the information contained in the environmental impact assessment report and associated documentation submitted by the applicant and submissions made in the course of the planning application.

The Board considered and agreed with the Inspector's reasoned conclusions, that the main significant direct and indirect effects of the proposed development on the environment are, and would be mitigated, as follows:

- (a) Landscape and visual impacts, which will be mitigated at construction management stage through a site specific Construction Management Plan, and for the operational stage mitigation is by way of the proposed design and landscape proposals, including the retention of existing significant trees and boundaries, retention of existing streams within the site, provision for riparian corridors, and a parkland/greenway along the Irish Water wayleave and streams through the site, with additional woodland planting to replaced lost wet woodland.
- (b) Traffic and transportation impacts, which will be mitigated by the phasing of the development and by the completion of a package of local road improvement measures.
- (c) Biodiversity impacts, which will be mitigated by construction management measures; including protection of habitats to be retained, landscaping, woodland management, invasive species management; measures to avoid disturbance to badgers and bats, and provision of bat boxes.
- (d) Land and soils impacts, which will be mitigated through the preparation of a project specific Construction Management Plan which will include inter alia specific measures in relation to stripping of topsoil, limitations to extent of topsoil stripping at any one time, protection of stockpiles of soil and location of these in areas which are flat and greater than 20 metres from surface water features and steep slopes, as well as limitation of stockpile to a height of 2.5 metres and where stored for greater than six months will be sown with grass.
- (e) Water impacts, which will be mitigated by construction management measures, including the implementation of sustainable drainage system measures, use of attenuation tanks, in addition to the installation of dedicated attenuation facilities upstream of proposed outfalls to the Moneygurney and Douglas Streams, to attenuate discharges to the undeveloped 'greenfield' runoff rates with the operation of proprietary hydrobrake flow-control devices.

- (f) Cultural heritage impacts, which will be mitigated by a programme of archaeological investigations undertaken prior to the commencement of the construction phase. A wading survey and metal-detecting survey of the sections of the northern stream to be crossed by an access road bridge and a pedestrian bridge will be undertaken in conjunction with the test trench excavations.
- (g) Noise and vibration impacts during construction, which will be mitigated by environmental management measures including management of vehicles and plant, sound reduction measures and monitoring of noise levels.
- (h) Impacts on air quality and climate during construction, which will be mitigated by a dust management plan.

The Board completed an environmental impact assessment in relation to the proposed development and concluded that, subject to the implementation of the mitigation measures set out in the environmental impact assessment report, and subject to compliance with the conditions set out below, the effects on the environment of the proposed development, by itself and in combination with other development in the vicinity, would be acceptable. In doing so, the Board adopted the report and conclusions of the Inspector.

### **Conclusions on Proper Planning and Sustainable Development**

It is considered that, subject to compliance with the conditions set out below, the proposed development would constitute an acceptable residential density at this location, would not seriously injure the residential or visual amenities of the area or of property in the vicinity, would be acceptable in terms of urban design, height and quantum of development, would be acceptable in terms of stormwater management, as well as in terms of pedestrian and traffic safety and convenience. The proposed development would, therefore, be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

## Conditions

1. The proposed development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the plans and particulars lodged with the application, as amended by further plans and particulars received by An Bord Pleanála on the 19th day of September 2019, 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 Bord Pleanála for determination.

**Reason:** In the interest of clarity.

2. Mitigation and monitoring measures outlined in the plans and particulars, including the Environmental Impact Assessment Report submitted with this application as set out in Chapter 14 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, 'Summary of Mitigation Measures', shall be carried out in full, except where otherwise required by conditions attached to this permission.

**Reason:** In the interest of protecting the environment and in the interest of public health.

3. The mitigation measures contained in the Natura Impact Statement which was submitted with the application shall be implemented in full.

**Reason:** In the interest of clarity and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and to ensure the protection of the European sites.



4. The proposed development shall be amended as follows:
- (a) The entrance to the site at the northwest corner adjoining Temple Grove apartments shall accommodate a footpath on both sides of the street up to the junction with the entrance to apartment Block A and shall be designed in accordance with the requirements of the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets. The new footpath on its north/north-eastern side shall tie in with the footpath at Temple Grove.
  - (b) The side elevation of dwelling number 274 shall be redesigned as a dual aspect unit to provide for additional overlooking of the open space to the north of the unit.
  - (c) Privacy screens at 1.5 metres minimum height shall be provided between balconies.
  - (d) A detailed design for the 'parklets', public playground, half ball-court and activity trail through the site shall be submitted.
  - (e) A management plan for the designated 'active amenity space' to the northwest of the scheme, including details of design, finishes, boundary treatment, lighting and opening hours, shall be submitted.
  - (f) Details of bicycle parking and refuse storage for the proposed apartments shall be submitted.
  - (g) Details of bicycle spaces, including covered bicycle spaces to serve the duplex apartments shall be submitted.

Revised drawings 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 order to provide a satisfactory standard of residential accommodation.

5. (a) 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.
- (b) Not more than 75 number residential units, excluding one-bed units, shall be made available for occupation before completion of the childcare facility unless the developer can demonstrate to the written satisfaction of the planning authority that a childcare facility is not needed.

**Reason:** To ensure the timely provision of services and facilities, for the benefit of the occupants of the proposed dwellings.

6. Details of all fencing and/or walling along the perimeter of the site and along common boundaries, including proposed heights, shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development.

**Reason:** In the interests of residential and visual amenities

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

**Reason:** In the interest of visual amenity.

8. Each dwelling shall be used as a single dwelling unit only and shall not be sub-divided in any manner or used as two or more separate habitable units.

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

9. No apartment units within the proposed development shall be sold separately, independent from the associated car parking provision. All the proposed car parking spaces shall be for occupants of the dwelling units and shall be sold with the units and not sold separately or let independently from the residential development.

**Reason:** In the interest of orderly development.

10. No additional development shall take place above roof parapet level of the apartment buildings, 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, and to allow the planning authority to assess the impact of any such development through the planning process.

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

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

12. 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. All existing over ground cables shall be relocated underground as part of the site development works.

**Reason:** In the interests of visual and residential amenity.

13. The applicant or developer shall enter into water and waste water connection agreements with Irish Water, prior to commencement of development.

**Reason:** In the interest of public health.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. 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 sightlines, right turning lane, ghost islands, 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) 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.
  - (c) 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/set down areas provided by the developer shall comply with the detailed standards of the planning authority for such road works.
  - (e) A Mobility Management Plan shall be prepared and submitted to the planning authority for approval prior to the commencement of development.
  - (f) The developer shall carry out a Stage 2 and Stage 3 Quality Audit (which

shall include a Road Safety Audit, Access Audit, Cycle Audit and Walking Audit), which shall be submitted to the planning authority for its written agreement. The developer shall carry out all agreed recommendations contained in the audits, at the developer's expense.

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

17. The route, alignment and finish of the extension to the Ballybrack Valley Pedestrian and Cyclist Route through the site shall be agreed with the planning authority and constructed by the developer at their expense as part of phase 1 of the development.

**Reason:** In the interest of amenity and safety.

18. Prior to first occupation of any of the units, the proposed pedestrian and cyclist links shall be satisfactorily completed at the applicant's expense and available for public use.

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

19. All of the communal parking areas serving the apartments and duplex units shall be provided with ducting for electric vehicle charging points, and all of the houses shall be provided with electric connections to the exterior of the houses to allow for the provision of future electric vehicle charging points. Details of how it is proposed to comply with these requirements shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development.

**Reason:** in the interest of sustainable transportation.

20. Prior to the commencement of development, the developer shall retain the professional services of a qualified Landscape Architect as Landscape Consultant throughout the life of the site development works and shall notify the planning authority of that appointment in writing. The developer shall engage the Landscape Consultant to procure, oversee and supervise the landscape contract for the implementation of the permitted landscape proposals. When all landscape works are inspected and completed to the satisfaction of the Landscape Consultant, he/she shall submit a Practical Completion Certificate (PCC) to the planning authority for written agreement, as verification that the approved landscape plans and specification have been fully implemented.

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

21. Prior to commencement of development the developer shall submit and obtain the written agreement of the planning authority, 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 for the ongoing operation of these facilities.

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

22. The construction of the development shall be managed in accordance with a Final Construction and Environmental Management Plan, which shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with the planning authority prior to commencement of development. This plan shall provide, among other things, details and location of proposed construction compounds, details of intended construction practice for the development, including hours of working, noise management measures, details of arrangements for routes for construction traffic, parking during the construction phase, and off-site disposal of construction/demolition waste and/or by-products.

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

23. The management and maintenance of the proposed development following its completion shall be the responsibility of a legally constituted management company, or by the local authority in the event of the development being taken in charge. Detailed proposals in this regard shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development.

**Reason:** To ensure the satisfactory completion and maintenance of this development.



24. Prior to commencement of development, the developer 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 Development Act 2000, as amended, and of the housing strategy in the development plan of the area.

25. 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 reinstatement of public roads which may be damaged by the transport of materials to the site, to secure the provision and satisfactory completion of roads, footpaths, watermains, drains, 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 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 of the development.

