



Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2019

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 27th day of June 2019 by Kingsbridge Consultancy Limited care of Declan Brassil & Company Limited, Lincoln House, Phoenix Street, Smithfield, Dublin 7.

Proposed Development:

A planning permission for a strategic housing development at Blackrock Road, Haggardstown, Blackrock, Dundalk, County Louth.

The proposed development will consist of:

- 483 number dwellings, a childcare facility of 677 square metres, a new access junction and works to the Blackrock Road, two number pedestrian and cyclist accesses onto Bóthar Maol, landscaped open spaces, internal roadways and potable, surface and foul water infrastructure.
- The proposed residential element of 483 number units comprises of 258 number detached, semi-detached and terraced houses, 213 number apartments in seven number apartment blocks, and six number own-door apartments and six number duplex units in two number duplex over apartment blocks.
- The 258 number houses comprise; 22 number Type TA five-bed 2.5 storey detached houses, 19 number Type TB five-bed 2.5 storey detached houses, 10 number Type TC four-bed 2.5 storey detached houses, seven number Type C1

four-bed 2.5 storey detached houses, three number Type TD four-bed two storey detached houses, 23 number Type TE four-bed two storey detached/semi-detached houses, seven number Type TF four-bed two storey detached houses, 50 number Type TG four-bed two storey detached/semi-detached houses, nine number Type TH three-bed two storey detached houses, nine number Type TH1 three-bed two storey detached houses, 37 number Type TI three-bed two storey semi-detached/ terraced houses, 61 number Type TJ three-bed two storey detached/semi-detached/terraced houses, and one number Type DB four-bed detached bungalow.

- The 213 number apartment units, six number own-door apartments and six number duplex units comprise of; 54 number Type A01 one-bed apartments, 10 number Type D01 one-bed apartments, 48 number Type A02 two-bed apartments, 48 number Type A03 two-bed apartments, 42 number Type A04 two-bed apartments, six number Type D02 two-bed apartments, five number Type D03 two-bed apartments, six number Type DP two-bed own door apartments, six number Type DP three-bed own-door duplexes. The duplex over apartment units are three storeys in height, the proposed apartment Blocks A, B, C, E, F, and G are four storeys in height, and Block D is three storeys. Blocks A, B and F accommodate underground car parking.
- The proposed two storey childcare facility of 677 square metres has an outdoor play area of 660 square metres and is located near the main entrance to the site.
- A total of 824 number car parking spaces and 512 number bicycle spaces are proposed.
- The scheme incorporates 3.1 hectares of landscaped public open space on zoned amenity lands and 1.4 hectares of additional open space in the form of pocket parks.
- Works to the Blackrock Road (R172) comprise the provision of a new junction to access the site and adjoining zoned lands and works to an existing storm water culvert.

- At the entrance to the site it is proposed to undertake the following works:
 - remove the existing boundary wall and replace it with a low stone finished wall;
 - provide a right turning lane from the R172 into the proposed access road;
 - raise the level of a 158-metre segment of the roadway by an average of 395 millimetres and reconstruct the public footpaths to match;
 - provide a raised pedestrian crossing across the access road; and
 - provide a recessed bus stop.
- The proposed access road has a carriageway width of six metres and incorporates a traffic calming narrowed area, grass verges, and off-road cycle path and footpath on the northern side. In total, four number potential future vehicular access points are provided to adjoining residential zoned lands. At the northeast of the site it is proposed to provide a surface water pipe along part of the Blackrock Road to an existing open channel, and to install a box culvert over part of this channel with a new headwall and riprap apron.
- The proposed storm water drainage system comprises four number networks with interception storage and treatment of runoff within the Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) features via permeable paving, swales, filter drains, silt traps and oil separators, a storm water infiltration basin and two number culverts to be located along existing drainage channels.
- The proposed foul water infrastructure includes the provision of a foul sewerage pumping station. The potable water infrastructure includes the provision of a new District Metered Area (DMA) watermain that will extend across the site.
- The site is served by a proposed hierarchy of roadways with footpaths.

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 on lands with a zoning objective for residential development and open space and the policies and objectives of the Dundalk & Environs Development Plan 2009 - 2015;
- b) The policies and objectives in the Louth County Council Development Plan 2015 to 2021;
- c) To the National Planning Framework which identifies the importance of Dundalk along the Dublin-Belfast corridor;
- d) Nature, scale and design of the proposed development and the availability in the area of a wide range of social infrastructure;
- e) Pattern of existing and permitted development in the wider area;
- f) The Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness 2016;
- g) 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;

- h) 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;
- i) The Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments issued by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government in March 2018;
- j) The Urban Development and Building Heights Guidelines for Planning Authorities issued by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in December 2018;
- k) Section 37(2)(b) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, whereby the Board is not precluded from granting permission for a development which materially contravenes a Development Plan; and
- l) Submissions and observations received.
- l) 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 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 other European sites, in view of the sites' conservation objectives other than Dundalk Bay Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 000455) and Dundalk Bay Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004026) which are the European sites for which there is a likelihood of significant effects.

Appropriate Assessment

The Board agreed with the screening assessment and conclusion carried out in the Inspector's report that Dundalk Bay Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 000455) and Dundalk Bay Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004026) are the European sites 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 the nearby European sites of Dundalk Bay Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 000455) and Dundalk Bay Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004026) in view of the sites' conservation objectives. 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

- i) likely direct and indirect impacts arising from the proposed development both individually or in combination with other plans or projects,
- ii) mitigation measures which are included as part of the current proposal,
- iii) 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 Sites, having regard to the sites' conservation objectives.

In the overall conclusion, the Board was satisfied that the proposed development would not adversely affect the integrity of European sites 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; and
- (d) The Inspector's report.

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 report, 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:

- **Traffic:** There will be a slight to moderate impact on the operation of junctions of the development which will not be avoided, mitigated, or otherwise addressed by means of condition.
- **Flooding:** A proportion of the site is located within flood zone A and B and is susceptible to tidal/coastal flooding. This will be mitigated by the measures which form part of the proposed scheme, including the raising of either side of the R172, as well as designing the finished floor level of the proposed buildings above the expected flood levels.

- **Visual Impact:** The development will present as a new development in the landscape. There will also be changed views for some viewers, for example from certain locations in the golf course. The lands are zoned for residential development and the proposal is not expected to involve the introduction of new or uncharacteristic features into the local or wider landscape character setting. The potential impact will be mitigated by the design and phased boundary planting and screening.

Notwithstanding the conclusion reached in respect of the inability of the proposed measures to fully mitigate the traffic impact, it is considered that the environmental effects would not justify a refusal of planning permission having regard to overall benefits of the proposed development.

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

The Board considered that, subject to compliance with the conditions set out below, the proposed development would constitute an acceptable residential density in this suburban location, 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 and would be acceptable in terms of traffic and pedestrian safety and convenience. The proposed development would, therefore, be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

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 mitigation measures and monitoring commitments identified in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, and other plans and particulars submitted with the planning application shall be implemented in full by the developer, except as may otherwise be required in order to comply with the following conditions.

Reason: In the interest of clarity and protection of the environment during the construction and operational phases of the proposed development.

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. (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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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 off with the units and not sold separately or let independently from the residential development.

Reason: In the interest of orderly development.

9. 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 placenames for new residential areas.

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. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. The developer shall demonstrate compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency Code of Practice for Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (2009) with respect to minimum distances of existing separation tank and percolation areas of dwellings along Bóthar Maol from the proposed development.

Reason: In the interests of public health

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. 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 traffic, cyclist and pedestrian safety.

16. 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 traffic, cyclist and pedestrian safety.

17. All parking areas serving the apartments shall be provided with ducting for electric vehicle charging points. Details of how it is proposed to comply with these requirements, including details of design of, and signage for, the

electrical charging points shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development.

Reason: in the interest of sustainable transportation

18. 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.

19. 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.

20. 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 inter alia: 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.

21. 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.

22. 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 Development Act 2000, as amended, and of the housing strategy in the development plan of the area.

23. 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.

24. 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.

