



---

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

### **Planning Authority: Dublin 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 27<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020 by MKN Investments Limited and Caltrack Limited (trading as Omni Park Shopping Centre Consortium) care of John Spain Associates, 39 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2.

**Proposed Development:** A planning permission for a strategic housing development on lands to the northeast of Omni Park Shopping Centre including a vacant warehouse, Swords Road, Dublin 9. The site is bound by the Swords Road to the east and by a private access road to the north.

The development will consist of:

- (a) Demolition of existing structure on site,
- (b) Construction of a mixed-use development generally ranging in height from five number storeys to 12 number storeys (over basement level) set out in three number blocks (Block A, B and C),
- (c) The development will comprise a total of 324 number apartment units, (179 number two-bedroom units, 126 number one-bedroom units and 19 number studio units) with associated balconies, winter gardens and terraces,
- (d) Block A ranges in height from eight number to 12 number storeys comprising 78 number two-bedroom units, 45 number one-bedroom units and seven

- number studio units and one number café/ restaurant/ retail unit (186 square metres),
- (e) Block B ranges in height from seven number to 11 number storeys comprising 54 number two-bedroom units, 69 number one-bedroom units and 12 number studio units and a creche facility (258 square metres),
  - (f) Block C ranges in height from five number to nine number storeys comprising of 47 number two-bedroom units and 12 number one-bedroom units and internal amenity space (465 square metres) including gym/function room space, media room, resident's amenity shared work space, bookable conference rooms and concierge,
  - (g) The proposed development will also provide for an 81 number bedroom aparthotel (4,020 square metres) in Block C,
  - (h) Public realm improvements including public plaza, footpaths and both soft and hard landscaping works to the southern boundary of the subject site. The scheme will provide for a total of 2,020 square metres of public open space to serve the proposed development,
  - (i) The proposed development will also include the provision of communal external space including courtyard areas, play spaces and roof terraces (circa 3,129 square metres),
  - (j) Parking at basement level for 162 number cars (152 number residential spaces (including four number club car spaces) and 10 number aparthotel spaces), 340 number bicycles and six number motorcycles spaces,
  - (k) Vehicular access to the basement is from the existing private road to the north of the subject site,
  - (l) Six number set down car parking spaces, two number club car spaces and 40 number visitor bicycle parking spaces will be provided at surface level,
  - (m) All hard and soft landscaping, boundary treatments and all associated site development works, site infrastructure, utilities, substations, photovoltaic panels at roof level, services and plant.

## **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 location of the site in the established urban area of Dublin City in an area zoned Z4 District Centre,
- (b) the policies and objectives of the Dublin City Development Plan 2016-2022,
- (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) Urban Development and Building Heights Guidelines for Planning Authorities, prepared by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in December 2018 and particularly Specific Planning Policy Requirement 3,
- (f) the Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments issued by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government in March 2018 and particularly Specific Planning Policy Requirement 7 and 8,

- (g) 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 (and DMURS Covid-19 Interim Advice Note, May 2020),
- (h) the nature, scale and design of the proposed development and the availability in the area of a wide range of social, transport and water services infrastructure,
- (i) the pattern of existing and permitted development in the area,
- (j) the planning history of the site and within the area,
- (k) the submissions and observations received,
- (l) the Chief Executive Report from the planning authority and specifically the recommended reason for refusal; and
- (m) the report of the inspector.

### **Appropriate Assessment Screening**

The Board completed an Appropriate Assessment screening exercise in relation to the potential effects of the proposed development on designated European Sites, taking into account the nature, scale and location of the proposed development within a zoned and serviced urban site, the Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment submitted with the application, the Inspector's report, and submissions on file. In completing the screening exercise, the Board adopted the report of the Inspector and concluded that, by itself or in combination with other development in the vicinity, the proposed development would not be likely to have a significant effect on any European Site in view of the conservation objectives of such 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 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.

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

The Board considered that, subject to compliance with the conditions set out below that the proposed development would constitute an acceptable quantum and density of development in this accessible urban location, would not seriously injure the residential or visual amenities of the area, would be acceptable in terms of urban design, height and quantum of development and would be acceptable in terms of traffic and pedestrian safety. The proposed development would, therefore, be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. In coming to this conclusion, specific regard was had to the Chief Executive Report from the planning authority and particularly the recommended reason for refusal, which was addressed in detail in the Inspector's Report.

The Board considered that, while a grant of permission for the proposed Strategic Housing Development would not materially contravene a zoning objective of the statutory plans for the area, a grant of permission could materially contravene Dublin City Development Plan 2016-2022 in relation to building height. The Board considers that, having regard to the provisions of section 37(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the grant of permission in material contravention of the City Development Plan would be justified for the following reasons and consideration: -

**In relation to section 37(2)(b)(i) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)**

The proposed development is considered to be of strategic and national importance having regard to the definition of 'strategic housing development' pursuant to section 3 of the Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act 2016 (as amended) and its potential to contribute to the achievement of the Government's policy to increase delivery of housing from its current under supply set out in Rebuilding Ireland – Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness issued in July 2016.

**In relation to section 37(2)(b)(iii) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)**

Permission for the development should be granted having regard to guidelines under section 28 of the Act, specifically Specific Planning Policy Requirement 3 of the Building Height Guidelines which states that where a development complies with the Development Management Criteria in section 3.2, it may be approved, even where specific objectives of the relevant development plan or local area plan may indicate otherwise and national policy in Project Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework, in particular objectives 13 and 35.

The Board 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, and would be acceptable 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 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, or as otherwise stipulated by conditions hereunder, 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. The proposed aparthotel development shall be used only as a short-stay tourist accommodation facility with a maximum occupancy period of two months and shall not be used for permanent occupation or for use as a student residence.

**Reason:** To comply with the provisions of Appendix 16, Guidance on Aparthotels of the Dublin City Development Plan 2016 – 2022.

3. Details of the materials, colours and textures of all the external finishes to the proposed dwellings/buildings shall be as submitted with the application, unless otherwise 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 interest of visual amenity.

4. Proposals for an estate/street/building name and apartment numbering scheme and associated signage shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. Thereafter, all estate and street signs, and apartment 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.

5. The management and maintenance of the proposed development, following its completion, shall be the responsibility of a legally constituted management company. A management scheme providing adequate measures for the future maintenance of public open spaces, roads and communal areas shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to occupation of the development.

**Reason:** To provide for the satisfactory future maintenance of this development in the interest of residential amenity.

6. No additional development shall take place above roof level, including lift motors, air handling equipment, storage tanks, ducts or other external plant other than those shown on the drawings hereby approved, unless authorised by a prior grant of planning permission.

**Reason:** To safeguard the amenities of surrounding occupiers and the visual amenities of the area in general.



7. Before any café use commences, a scheme shall be submitted to, and approved in writing by the planning authority for the effective control of fumes and odours from the café. The scheme shall be implemented before the use commences and thereafter permanently maintained.

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

8. Details of all security shuttering, external shopfronts, lighting and signage shall be as submitted to An Bord Pleanála with this application unless otherwise submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to occupation of the aparthotel and café/restaurant units.

**Reason:** In the interests of the amenities of the area/visual amenity.

9. No advertisement or advertisement structure (other than those shown on the drawings submitted with the application) shall be erected or displayed on the building (or within the curtilage of the site) in such a manner as to be visible from outside the building, unless authorised by a further grant of planning permission.

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

10. 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. The plan 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 in accordance with the provision of the Waste Management Plan for the Region in which the site is situated.

**Reason:** In the interest of sustainable waste management.

11. 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, including: -
- (a) Location of the site and materials compound(s) including area(s) identified for the storage of construction refuse.
  - (b) Location of areas for construction site offices and staff facilities.
  - (c) Details of site security fencing and hoardings.
  - (d) Details of on-site car parking facilities for site workers during the course of construction.
  - (e) Details of the timing and routing of construction traffic to and from the construction site and associated directional signage, to include proposals to facilitate the delivery of abnormal loads to the site.
  - (f) Measures to obviate queuing of construction traffic on the adjoining road network.
  - (g) Measures to prevent the spillage or deposit of clay, rubble or other debris on the public road network.
  - (h) Alternative arrangements to be put in place for pedestrians and vehicles in the case of the closure of any public road or footpath during the course of site development works.
  - (i) Details of appropriate mitigation measures for noise, dust and vibration, and monitoring of such levels.
  - (j) Containment of all construction-related fuel and oil within specially constructed bunds to ensure that fuel spillages are fully contained. Such bunds shall be roofed to exclude rainwater.

- (k) Means to ensure that surface water run-off is controlled such that no silt or other pollutants enter local surface water sewers or drains.
- (l) A record of daily checks that the works are being undertaken in accordance with the Construction Management Plan shall be kept for inspection by the planning authority.

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

12. Site development and building works shall be carried out only between the hours of 0700 to 1900 Mondays to Saturdays inclusive, 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.

13. The internal road network serving the proposed development, including turning bays, junctions, parking areas, footpaths and kerbs, and the underground car park shall be in accordance with the detailed construction standards of the planning authority for such works and design standards outlined in DMURS. In default of agreement the matter(s) in dispute shall be referred to An Bord Pleanála for determination.

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

14. Prior to commencement of development, any proposals to the public road and footpaths, including the upgrading of pedestrian crossing, changes to road markings and installation of double yellow lines/road signage if necessary, shall be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the planning authority and at the applicant's own expense.

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

15. 340 number bicycle parking spaces shall be provided within the site. Details of the layout, marking demarcation and security provisions for these spaces shall be as submitted to An Bord Pleanála with this application, unless otherwise agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development.

**Reason:** To ensure that adequate bicycle parking provision is available to serve the proposed development, in the interest of sustainable transportation.

16. Prior to the making available for occupation by the developer of the residential units of the proposed development, a Mobility Management Strategy shall be submitted to and agreed in writing with the planning authority. This shall provide for incentives to encourage the use of public transport, cycling, walking and carpooling by residents/occupants/staff employed in the development and to reduce and regulate the extent of parking. The mobility strategy shall be prepared and implemented by the management company for all units within the development. Details to be agreed with the planning authority shall include the provision of centralised facilities within the commercial element of the development for bicycle parking, shower and changing facilities associated with the policies set out in the strategy.

**Reason:** In the interest of encouraging the use of sustainable modes of transport.

17. The site shall be landscaped, and earthworks carried out in accordance with the detailed comprehensive scheme of landscaping, which accompanied the application submitted, unless otherwise agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development.  
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 interests of residential and visual amenity.

18. (a) Prior to commencement of development, all trees, groups of trees, hedging and shrubs which are to be retained shall be enclosed within stout fences not less than 1.5 metres in height. This protective fencing shall enclose an area covered by the crown spread of the branches, or at minimum a radius of two metres from the trunk of the tree or the centre of the shrub, and to a distance of two metres on each side of the hedge for its full length, and shall be maintained until the development has been completed.
- (b) No construction equipment, machinery or materials shall be brought onto the site for the purpose of the development until all the trees which are to be retained have been protected by this fencing. No work shall be carried out within the area enclosed by the fencing and, in particular, there shall be no parking of vehicles, placing of site huts, storage compounds or topsoil heaps, storage of oil, chemicals or other substances, and no lighting of fires, over the root spread of any tree to be retained.
- (c) Excavations in preparation for foundations and drainage, and all works above ground level in the immediate vicinity of tree(s) on drawing number 1767\_TS\_P\_02 Rev IFP, as submitted with the application, shall be carried out under the supervision of a specialist arborist, in a manner that will ensure that all major roots are protected and all branches are retained.
- (d) No trench, embankment or pipe run shall be located within three metres of any trees which are to be retained on the site.

**Reason:** To protect trees and planting during the construction period in the interest of visual amenity.

19. (a) Drainage arrangements including the attenuation and disposal of surface water, shall comply with the requirements of the planning authority for such works and services.

(b) The flood mitigation measures as outlined in the report titled, 'Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment', Rev PL3' by Eireng Consulting Engineers shall be implemented in full.

(c) Upon Completion of the development, a Stage 3 Completion Stormwater Audit to demonstrate Sustainable Urban Drainage System measures have been installed, and are working as designed and that there has been no misconnections or damage to storm water drainage infrastructure during construction, shall be submitted to the planning authority for written agreement.

**Reason:** In the interests of public health and surface water management.

20. The developer shall enter into water and/or wastewater connection agreement(s) with Irish Water, prior to commencement of development.

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

21. Public lighting shall be provided in accordance with a scheme, which shall include lighting along pedestrian routes through open spaces, details of which shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development/installation of lighting. Such lighting shall be provided prior to the making available for occupation of any residential unit.

**Reason:** In the interests of a properly planned and serviced development, and in the interests of public safety and convenience.

22. The gym/function room space, media room, resident's amenity shared work space, bookable conference rooms shall be for the use of residents of the proposed development only and shall not be open to the public on a commercial basis, unless otherwise authorised by a prior grant of permission.

These shall be maintained and managed by the Owner's Management Company.

**Reason:** To ensure the appropriate provision of communal facilities to serve the needs of the residents of the proposed development.

23. (a) The car parking facilities hereby permitted shall be reserved solely to serve the proposed development. 140 number clearly identified car parking space shall be assigned permanently for the residential development and shall be reserved solely for that purpose. These residential spaces shall not be utilised for any other purpose, including for use in association with any other uses of the development hereby permitted, unless the subject of a separate grant of planning permission.
- (b) Prior to the occupation of the development, a Parking Management Plan shall be prepared for the development and shall be submitted to and agreed in writing with the planning authority. This plan shall provide for the permanent retention of the designated residential parking spaces and shall indicate how these and other spaces within the development shall be assigned, segregated by use and how the car park shall be continually managed.

**Reason:** To ensure that adequate parking facilities are permanently available to serve the proposed residential units.

24. A minimum of 10 per cent of all communal car parking spaces shall be provided with functioning electric vehicle charging stations/points, and ducting shall be provided for all remaining car parking spaces, including in-curtilage spaces, facilitating the installation of electric vehicle charging points/stations at a later date. Where proposals relating to the installation of electric vehicle ducting and charging stations/points has not been submitted with the application, in accordance with the above noted requirements, such proposals shall be submitted and agreed in writing with the planning authority prior to the

occupation of the development.

**Reason:** To provide for and/or future proof the development such as would facilitate the use of Electric Vehicles.

25. 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.

26. 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 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



27. 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          2020**