



Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2019

Planning Authority: Dún Laoghaire Rathdown 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 15th day of June 2020 by Ditton Investments Limited care of John Spain Associates, 39 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2.

Proposed Development:

A planning permission for a strategic housing development on a site at Dean's Grange Road, Deansgrange, Blackrock, County Dublin (also known as Deansgrange Road).

The site is located to the south of Deansgrange Cemetery, west of residential properties at Foxrock Close and north of the Deansgrange Neighbourhood Centre.

The site is currently occupied by Mooney's Car Sales business, which includes a two storey office/car showroom building, a former petrol filling station, a warehouse and car wash building, associated forecourt areas, and two derelict dwellings known as Maryland's and Chickamauga, with associated outbuildings.

The proposed development will consist of:

- The demolition of all existing buildings on site,
- The construction of a mixed use building, ranging in height from four to six storeys, over basement, including one number restaurant/café and five number commercial units (for Class 1 - Shop or Class 2 - Office/Professional Services or Class 8 - Medical Centre or Class 11 – Gym or Restaurant/Café use) at

ground floor level and 151 number apartment units from ground to fifth floor level,

- The mix of apartments includes 11 number studios, 64 number one-beds and 76 number two-beds,
- The development includes a concierge/reception area at ground floor level which is ancillary to the proposed residential use,
- The proposal contains a total of 99 number car parking spaces including five number disabled spaces, four number motorcycle spaces, bin storage and plant rooms at basement level. A total of 320 number bicycle parking spaces, two number designated car sharing parking spaces and one number loading/set down area are proposed at surface level,
- Public realm improvements are proposed along the Dean's Grange Road frontage and outdoor communal open space areas are proposed at surface level and fifth floor level,
- The proposed development will provide balconies/terraces on all elevations, boundary treatments and landscaping, an Electricity Supply Board substation, drainage and service works, the provision of a vehicular access and egress point and a pedestrian/emergency access point from Dean's Grange Road, and all ancillary site development works necessary to facilitate the development.

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 suburban area of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown in an area where residential use is permitted under NC 'neighbourhood centre' zoning objective,
- (b) the policies and objectives of the Dún Laoghaire Rathdown 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, Best Practice Guide, issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in May 2009,
- (e) the 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, Guidelines for Planning Authorities issued by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government in March 2018,
- (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 2019, as amended,
- (h) the Architectural Heritage Protection, Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2011,

- (i) the nature, scale and design of the proposed development and the availability in the area of public transport and water services infrastructure,
- (j) the pattern of existing and permitted development in the area,
- (k) the planning history of the site and within the area,
- (l) the submissions and observations received,
- (m) the Chief Executive Report from the planning authority and specifically the recommended reason for refusal, and
- (n) the report of the inspector.

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.

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 area, 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 the Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report submitted by the applicant.

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, and
- (c) the location of the development outside of any other 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 suburban location, would not seriously injure the residential or visual amenities of the area, would be acceptable in terms of urban design, height, scale, mass, and would be acceptable in terms of pedestrian and traffic 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. It was considered that while the height, scale and mass of the development would have an unacceptable impact at four to six storeys in height, this could be successfully mitigated with a reduction in height, scale and mass to between three to five storeys. Cognisant of the planning authority's recommended reason for refusal, the Board concluded that the development would not result in undue overlooking of adjacent sites, but that the reduced height, scale and mass of the development would consequently reduce

the visual and overshadowing impact. The Board, therefore, concluded that the height, scale and mass of the proposed development would be appropriate following amendments secured by conditions.

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 Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Development Plan 2016-2022 Building Height Strategy. 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 considerations:

- (a) 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.
- (b) 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). An assessment of the proposed development was carried out to determine that the proposed development conforms with the development management criteria in section 3.2 of those guidelines.

Conditions

1. The proposed 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 proposed 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 proposed development shall be amended as follows:
 - (a) Removal of the third-floor level (4th storey) and associated residential units with labels beginning A3, B3 and C3.
 - (b) Omission of commercial unit 05 at ground floor fronting Deansgrange Road and inclusion of a creche in its place, with associated directly accessible external play area.
 - (c) Amendment to basement area to facilitate a reduced car parking quantum to not more than a ratio of 0.66 car parking spaces per unit, on the basis of the revised total unit number required under part (a) of this condition.

As a consequence of the above amendments the total number of units permitted is 120 number residential units comprising eight number studios, 52 number one-beds and 60 number two-beds. Revised drawings showing compliance with these requirements shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development.

Reason: In the interests of visual and residential amenity.

3. Prior to the commencement of development, the following details shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with the planning authority:
 - (a) Confirmation of the use to be located in each commercial unit, in addition to details of any extract and ventilation system to be used, signage and the opening hours for each of the commercial premises within the scheme,
 - (b) Confirmation of the access restrictions and controls to be operation over green roof areas,
 - (c) Detailed drawings of glazed canopy area to roof terrace,
 - (d) Detailed drawings of the cycle storage to be provided, including sedum roof,
 - (e) Details of vehicular and pedestrian entrances to the satisfaction of the planning authority,
 - (f) Revised drawings illustrating incorporation of the recommendations in the submitted Road Safety Audit,
 - (g) A Taking in Charge Plan and revised swept path drawing,
 - (h) Arrangements for any necessary relocation of utilities on Deansgrange Road.

Reason: In the interests of residential amenity of future occupants, existing residents' amenity, and traffic safety.

4. Details of the materials, colours and textures of all the external finishes to the proposed 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.

5. Prior to commencement of the development, details of all areas of boundary treatment, green walls, play equipment and roof terrace planting, shall be submitted to, and approved, by the planning authority. Boundaries and areas of communal open space shown on the lodged plans shall be landscaped in accordance with the landscape scheme submitted to An Bord Pleanála with this application, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the planning authority. Planting buffers should also be shown between private and commercial spaces. The landscape scheme shall be implemented fully in the first planting season following completion of the development, and any trees or shrubs which die or are removed within three years of planting shall be replaced in the first planting season thereafter. This work shall be completed before any of the dwellings are made available for occupation. Access to green roof areas shall be strictly prohibited unless for maintenance purposes.

Reason: In order to ensure the satisfactory development of the public open space areas, and their continued use for this purpose.

6. A plan containing details for the management of waste (and, in particular, recyclable materials) within the development, including the provision of facilities for the storage, separation and collection of the waste and, in particular, recyclable materials and for the ongoing operation of these facilities for each apartment unit shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority not later than six months from the date of commencement of the development. Thereafter, the waste shall be managed in accordance with the agreed plan.

Reason: In the interest of residential amenity, and to ensure the provision of adequate refuse storage.

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

8. Public lighting shall be provided in accordance with a final scheme to reflect the indicative details in the submitted Landscape Design Rationale and in accordance with mitigation recommended in the submitted Ecology Impact Statement, 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 house.

Reason: In the interests of amenity and public safety.

9. 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.

10. (a) Prior to commencement of development, all trees which are to be retained, both inside and outside the site, 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 trees in Deansgrange Cemetery, 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 adjacent to the site unless otherwise agreed with the planning authority.

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

11. 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 accepted in writing by the planning authority, to secure the protection of the trees on site and to make good any damage caused during the construction period, coupled with an agreement empowering the planning authority to apply such security, or part thereof, to the satisfactory protection of any tree or trees on the site or the replacement of any such trees which die, are removed or become seriously damaged or diseased within a period of three years from the substantial completion of the development with others of similar size and species. 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 secure the protection of the trees on the site.

12. Construction and demolition waste shall be managed in accordance with a final 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.

13. The construction of the development shall be managed in accordance with a final 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 or off-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) Off-site disposal of construction/demolition waste and details of how it is proposed to manage excavated soil,
 - (l) Means to ensure that surface water run-off is controlled such that no silt or other pollutants enter local surface water sewers or drains,

(m) 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 interest of amenities, public health and safety.

14. Site development and building works shall be carried out only between 0700 to 1900 hours 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 residential amenities of property in the vicinity.

15. 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.

16. A minimum of 10% of all car parking spaces shall be provided with electric vehicle charging stations/points, and ducting shall be provided for all remaining car parking spaces facilitating the installation of electric vehicle charging points/stations at a later date. Details of 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.

17. The car parking facilities hereby permitted shall be reserved solely to serve the proposed development. The spaces shall not be utilized 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.

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

18. Proposals for a development name and associated signage shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. Thereafter, all development and street signs, and apartment 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.

19. All service cables associated with the proposed development (such as electrical, telecommunications and communal television) shall be located underground. Any relocation of utility infrastructure shall be agreed with the relevant utility provider. 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.

20. The developer shall enter into water and wastewater connection agreements with Irish Water, prior to commencement of development.

Reason: In the interest of public health.

21. (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) Prior to the commencement of the development, details shall be submitted and approved by the planning authority of the surface water sewer diversion, wayleave, flow control device and green roofs, as indicated in the application submission and to the satisfaction of the planning authority,
- (c) Details of a Flood Barrier System shall be submitted to the planning authority for approval prior to commencement of the development,
- (d) Prior to commencement of development the developer shall submit to the planning authority for written agreement a Stage 2 - Detailed Design Stage Storm Water Audit.

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 interest of public health and surface water management.

22. 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.

