



Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2020

Planning Authority: Laois 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 25th day of June 2020 by Boderg Developments Limited care of Thornton O'Connor Town Planning, 1 Kilmacud Road Upper, Dundrum, Dublin 14.

Proposed Development:

A planning permission for a strategic housing development at a 4.492-hectare site at Foxburrow, Beladd, Portlaoise, County Laois.

The proposed development will complete the development of Foxburrow Estate, which was previously permitted and partially constructed under Laois County Council Register Reference Number 05/893.

The development will consist of the removal or adaptation of existing foundation pads for the previously permitted and partially constructed houses and the provision of 155 number residential units comprised of:

- 115 number two-storey terraced, semi-detached and detached dwellings (44 number four-bedroom houses, 48 number three-bedroom houses and 23 number two-bedroom houses),
- Four number one-bedroom maisonettes in a two-storey block,

- 36 number apartments provided in three number three storey apartment buildings, with each block proposing 12 number units, providing a total of 18 number one-bedroom apartments and 18 number two-bedroom apartments.

The development also proposes the provision of 289 number ancillary car parking spaces; cycle parking; the creation of a pedestrian link towards the north-west corner of the site through to the neighbouring Grenville estate and the facilitation of a vehicular link through to Grenville; hard and soft landscaping; balconies and terraces; boundary treatments; solar panels; the relocation of an existing Electricity Supply Board substation and the provision of a new substation; bin stores and all associated site development works above and below ground.

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 approximately two kilometres east of Portlaoise Town Centre, in an area that has existing residential development, with a zoning objective that permits residential development in principle;
- (b) that the proposal will complete an unfinished housing estate;

- (c) the pattern of existing development in the area;
- (d) the policies and objectives of the Laois County Development Plan, 2017-2023 and of the Portlaoise Local Area Plan 2018-2024;
- (e) the nature, scale and design of the proposed development and the availability in the area of a wide range of community, social and transport infrastructure;
- (f) 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;
- (g) the Urban Development and Building Heights Guidelines for Planning Authorities, prepared by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in December 2018;
- (h) the Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments issued by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government in March 2018;
- (i) 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;
- (j) the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness 2016;
- (k) the nature, scale and design of the proposed development;
- (l) the submissions and observations received, and
- (m) the report of the inspector.

It is 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, would respect the existing character of the area, 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 document 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 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, and
- (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.

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 period during which the development hereby permitted may be carried out shall be five years from the date of this Order.

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

3. The proposal shall be amended so that Unit 01/A shall be omitted from the proposed development and replaced with a single storey unit. In the interest of clarity, the total number of units permitted is 155 number units. Prior to the commencement of development, revised plans detailing this amendment shall be submitted for agreement in writing with the planning authority.

Reason: In the interests of residential amenity

4. The proposal shall be amended so that the facilitation of the future vehicular link through Grenville shall be omitted from the proposed development. Prior to the commencement of development, revised plans detailing these amendments shall be submitted for agreement in writing with the planning authority.

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

5. The developer shall comply with all requirements of the planning authority in relation to roads, access, cycling infrastructure and parking arrangements. In particular:
 - (a) There shall be 80 number bicycle spaces (58 residents and 22 visitor) provided within the development to serve the apartment/maisonette units;
 - (b) The applicant shall undertake a pedestrian and cycle route audit from the Foxburrow Estate to the Block Road intersections with the N80 and R445 and, subject to the written agreement of the planning authority prior to commencement of development, implement a review program to ensure appropriate infrastructure is provided / upgraded to meet cycling requirements to key off-site locations. In their written agreement, the developer and Laois County Council shall agree a schedule of works, and the share of the costs of those works. In default of agreement, such issues may be referred to An Bord Pleanála for determination.
 - (c) All issues in the submitted Road Safety Audit should be addressed. A final Stage 2 (detailed design) and post construction (Stage 3) independent Quality Audit (which should include a Road Safety Audit, Access Audit, Walking Audit and a Cycle Audit) shall be carried out at the developer's expense for the development in accordance with the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets guidance and Transport Infrastructure Ireland standards. The Quality Audit team shall be approved by the planning authority and all measures recommended by the Auditor should be undertaken unless the planning authority approves

any departure in writing. A feedback report shall also be submitted providing a response to each of the items;

- (d) A detailed Construction Traffic Management Plan shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. The plan shall include details of arrangements for prioritising the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and other road users, routes for construction traffic, parking during the construction phase, the location of the compound for storage of plant and machinery and the location for storage of deliveries to the site;
- (e) The roads and traffic arrangements serving the site (including 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;
- (f) The roads layout shall comply with the requirements of the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets, in particular carriageway widths and corner radii. A DMURS street design audit shall be undertaken on the finalised design and submitted to Laois County Council for agreement. No development to take place until such agreement is in place.
- (g) The materials used in any roads / footpaths provided by the developer shall comply with the detailed standards of the planning authority for such road works.

Reason: In the interests of traffic, cyclist and pedestrian safety and to protect residential amenity.

6. The car parking facilities hereby permitted shall be reserved solely to serve the proposed development. The spaces shall not be utilised for any other purpose, 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.

7. A minimum of 10% of all car parking spaces shall be provided with functioning 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. 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.

8. Water supply and drainage arrangements, including the disposal of surface water/storm water, shall comply with the requirements of the planning authority for such works and services.

Reason: In the interest of public health and to ensure a proper standard of development.

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

Reason: In the interest of public health and to ensure a proper standard of development.

10. Upon completion of each phase of the development, and prior to the occupation of any of the proposed units, the applicant shall have a full CCTV survey of the existing and completed foul and storm water network carried out. Any misconnections or other defects identified shall be rectified. A copy of the foul and storm water sewer CCTV survey, survey report and as-constructed drawings with manhole cover levels and pipe invert levels shall be submitted to the planning authority, for agreement and verification in writing.

Reason: In the interest of proper planning and development.

11. The areas of public open space and communal open spaces, as 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. 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 and communal open space areas, and their continued use for this purpose.

12. The landscaping scheme submitted shall be carried out within the first planting season following substantial completion of external construction works, details of which shall be submitted to the planning authority for written agreement prior to the 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 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.

13. Site development and building works shall be carried only out between 07.00 to 18.00 hours Mondays to Fridays inclusive, between 08.00 to 13.00 hours on Saturdays 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.

14. Proposals for an apartment, street and house numbering scheme and associated signage shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. Thereafter, all apartment, street signs, and house numbers, shall be provided in accordance with the agreed scheme. The proposed names shall be based on local historical or topographical features, or other alternatives acceptable to the planning authority. No advertisements/marketing signage relating to the names of the development shall be erected until the developer has obtained the planning authority's written agreement to the proposed names.

Reason: In the interest of orderly development.

15. Prior to commencement of development, the developer shall submit to and agree in writing with the planning authority a properly constituted Owners' Management Company. This shall include a layout map of the permitted development showing the areas to be taken in charge and those areas to be maintained by the Owner's Management Company. Membership of this company shall be compulsory for all purchasers of apartment units in the development. Confirmation that this company has been set up shall be submitted to the planning authority prior to the occupation of the first residential unit.

Reason: To provide for the satisfactory completion and maintenance of the development in the interest of residential amenity.

16. All service cables associated with the proposed development such as electrical, communal television, telephone and public lighting cables shall be run underground within the site. In this regard, ducting shall be provided to facilitate the provision of broadband infrastructure within the proposed development.

Reason: In the interests of orderly development and the visual amenities of the area.

17. Details of the materials, colours and textures of all the external finishes, including pavement, road finishes and boundary treatments, shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development.

Reason: In the interest of visual amenity.

18. 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, in particular, recyclable materials shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. Thereafter, the waste shall be managed in accordance with the agreed plan.

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

19. 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) 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.

20. 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.

The plan shall include details for the appropriate disposal of any invasive species which has been treated within the site and the prevention of any increase in vermin on the site or in the vicinity of the site, during construction.

Reason: In the interest of sustainable waste management.

21. Public lighting shall be provided in accordance with a scheme, details of which shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. Street lighting in private areas shall be independent to the public lighting power supply. Public lighting shall be provided prior to the making available for occupation of any house. Any

external lighting shall be cowled and directed away from the public roadway and adjoining properties.

Reason: In the interests of residential amenity.

22. 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 social and affordable housing in accordance with the requirements of section 96 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 (other than a matter to which section 97(7) applies) may be referred by the planning authority or any other prospective party to the agreement to the Board 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 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.

