



Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2019

Planning Authority: Cork 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 16th day of July 2020 by BMOR Developments Limited care of HW Planning of 5 Joyce House, Barrack Square, Ballincollig, Co. Cork.

Proposed Development comprises of the following:

The construction of a mixed-use development consisting of:

- 49 number student apartments containing 279 number bed spaces,
- two number retail units, coffee shop/restaurant and all ancillary site works.

The proposed development will consist of the demolition of the existing structures at numbers 92 and 95 North Main Street and the construction of an apartment block varying in height from four to seven storeys and comprising 11 number one-bedroom studio apartments, one number three-bedroom apartments, two number four-bedroom apartments, three number five-bedroom apartments, six number six-bedroom apartments, two number seven-bedroom apartments and 24 number eight-bedroom apartments.

The proposed development makes provision for shared amenity/building management areas including gym, laundry, library, cinema, reception, management office, lounge areas, linked gardens at ground floor level and rooftop terraces at first, fourth, fifth and sixth floor levels. Access to the student accommodation is to

be provided via Coleman's Lane which will be reinstated along the southern boundary of the site as part of the proposed development with access to the proposed retail units and coffee shop/restaurant to be provided from North Main Street.

Ancillary site works to include provision of a plant room, generator room, break tank room, Electricity Supply Board substation, switch room, rooftop solar panels, bin store and bicycle store all located at this site comprising number 92 North Main Street (former Molloy's Footwear store), numbers 93 to 94 North Main Street (vacant site formerly occupied by Munster Furniture), number 95 North Main Street (vacant three storey retail unit) and number 96 North Main Street (vacant site), Cork.

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 central location of the site and the zoning of the site in the Cork City Development Plan 2015-2021,
- (b) the provisions of the National Planning Framework issued by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in February 2018 and the National Student Accommodation Strategy issued by the Department of Education and Skills in July 2017,
- (c) the provisions of the Guidelines for Sustainable Residential Developments in Urban Areas and the accompanying Urban Design Manual, A Best Practice Guide, issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in May 2009,
- (d) the 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,
- (e) the Planning System and Flood Risk Management for Planning Authorities (including the associated Technical Appendices), issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in 2009,
- (f) the Architectural Heritage Protection, Guidelines for Planning Authorities, issued by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in October 2011,
- (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 nature, scale and design of the proposed development and the planning history relating to the site,
- (i) the proximity of the site to third level institutions, a wide range of social infrastructure and to public transport services,
- (j) the pattern of existing and permitted development in the area, and
- (k) the provisions of the Cork City Development Plan 2015-2021 including Variation number 5 to that plan,
- (l) the submissions received by An Bord Pleanála in relation to this application,

- (m) the report of the Chief Executive of Cork City Council,
- (n) the report of the planning inspector.

Appropriate Assessment

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 information contained in the Natura Impact Statement 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 document submitted by the developer, 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 is not therefore, required in this case.

Conclusions on Proper Planning and Sustainable Development

The Board considered that the proposed development would be compliant with the current Cork City Development Plan 2015-2021 and would, therefore, be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. Furthermore, 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 pedestrian and traffic safety. The proposed development would, therefore, be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Conditions

1. The proposed development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the plans and particulars lodged with the application, 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 proposed 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 following details shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to the commencement of development:
 - (a) The six-storey block west of number 97 North Main Street shall be set back by seven metres from the shared property boundary with number 97 North Main Street. This shall involve the reconfiguration of apartment units along the northern boundary of the site at ground to fifth floor levels.
 - (b) A privacy screen shall be provided along the northern boundary of the proposed communal roof terrace at first floor level.

Revised plans and particulars 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 interest of residential amenity.

3. (a) The proposed development hereby permitted shall only be occupied as student accommodation, in accordance with the definition of student accommodation provided under section 13(d) of the Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act 2016, and shall not be used for any other purpose without a prior grant of planning permission for change of use.
- (b) Full details of the hours of operation of the proposed coffee shop / restaurant unit shall be submitted to and agreed in writing with the planning authority prior to the commencement of development. The unit shall not be used for the sale of hot fast food or intoxicating liquor for consumption off the premises.

Reason: In the interest of residential amenity and to limit the scope of the proposed development to that for which the application was made.

4. 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 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.

5. The proposed development shall be implemented as follows:
 - (a) The student accommodation and complex shall be operated and managed in accordance with the measures identified in a finalised Student Accommodation Management Plan which shall be submitted to and agreed in writing with the planning authority prior to first occupation of the development.
 - (b) Student Housing Units shall not be amalgamated or combined.

Reason: In the interests of the amenities of occupiers of the units and surrounding properties.

6. Details of shopfronts shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to the commencement of development.

Reason: In the interest of visual amenity and to protect the historic character of the area.

7. No external security shutters shall be erected on any of the commercial premises unless authorised by a further grant of planning permission. Details of all internal shutters shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development.

Reason: In the interest of visual amenity.

8. 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.

9. The developer shall facilitate the protection of archaeological materials or features which 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) submit to and agree in writing with the planning authority revised proposals for the foundation plan, which shall ensure that the development will not cause avoidable disturbance to archaeological material and will limit any unavoidable disturbance,
 - (c) employ a suitably qualified archaeologist who shall monitor all site investigations and other excavation works, and
 - (d) 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. Details of all lighting to external areas shall be as submitted to and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to occupation of the development. Such lighting shall be provided prior to the making available for occupation of any unit.

Reason: In the interest of the amenities of the area/visual amenity.

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

Reason: In the interests of clarity and public health.

15. Drainage arrangements including the attenuation and disposal of surface water, shall comply with the requirements of the planning authority for such works and services. The following details shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to the commencement of development:

- (a) Revised surface water drainage calculations, conveyance and attenuation details (where required) to meet the surface water storage requirements of the development.
- (b) Details for the provision of oil interceptors for any areas to be used for parking or otherwise trafficked.
- (c) Confirmation of necessary wayleaves to accommodate the proposed connections to the surface water and foul water drainage networks on Grattan Street.
- (d) Proposals to increase the Finished Floor Level of the proposed apartment units above the maximum 0.1% Annual Exceedance Probability flood level to include provision for sea-level rise due to climate change.
- (e) A Flood Emergency Response Plan.

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

16. A total of 142 number secure bicycle parking spaces shall be provided within the development. Design details for the cycle spaces shall be submitted to, and 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.

17. 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.

18. The site shall be landscaped 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.

Reason: In the interests of residential and visual amenity.

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 compounds including areas 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 off-street 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, cyclists and vehicles in the case of the closure of any public road, cycleway or footpath during the course of site development works,
 - (i) details of appropriate mitigation measures for noise and dust, and monitoring of such levels,
 - (j) details of appropriate measures to mitigate vibration from construction activity in accordance with BS6472: 1992 Guide to Evaluation of Human Exposure to Vibration in Buildings (1 hertz to 80 hertz) and BS7385: Part 2 1990: Evaluation and Measurement for Vibration in Buildings - Guide to Damage Levels from Ground-Borne Vibration, and for the monitoring of such levels,

- (k) 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,
- (l) off-site disposal of construction/demolition waste and details of how it is proposed to manage excavated soil,
- (m) means to ensure that surface water run-off is controlled such that no silt or other pollutants enter local surface water sewers or drains,
- (n) 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 amenities, public health and safety.

20. Prior to the opening/occupation of the development, a Mobility Management Strategy (including an interim or temporary strategy reflecting any requirements or adjustments relating to Covid-19 movement and travel patterns) 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. Details may 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. The interim or temporary strategy, where applicable, should reflect the requirements of DMURS Interim Advice Note – Covid Pandemic Response (May 2020). The mobility strategy shall be prepared and implemented by the management company for all units within the development.

Reason: In the interest of encouraging the use of sustainable modes of transport and reflecting the needs of pedestrians and cyclists during Covid-19 pandemic.

21. 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 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.

22. 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.

