

Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2020

Planning Authority: Meath County Council

Application for permission under section 4 of the Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act 2016, as amended, in accordance with plans and particulars, lodged with An Bord Pleanála on the 5th day of August 2021 by Rockmill Limited care of John Spain Associates of 39 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin.

Proposed Development comprises of the following:

201 number residential units proposed are located within five number proposed apartment buildings of five number storeys in height over basement. The proposed apartment units comprise 53 number one-bedroom apartments, 132 number two-bedroom apartments, and 16 number three-bedroom apartments.

The five number apartment buildings comprise the following:

- Block 1 is five storeys in height, and will accommodate 53 number apartment units, comprising 18 number one-bedroom units, 31 number two-bedroom units, and four number three-bedroom units.
- Block 2 is five storeys in height and will accommodate 37 number apartment units, comprising eight number one-bedroom units, 26 number two-bedroom units, and three number three-bedroom units.
- Block 3 is five storeys in height and will accommodate 37 number apartment units, comprising nine number one-bedroom units, 25 number two-bedroom units, and three number three-bedroom units.

- Block 4 is five storeys in height and will accommodate 37 number apartment units, comprising nine number one-bedroom units, 25 number two-bedroom units, and three number three-bedroom units.
- Block 5 is five storeys in height and will accommodate 37 number apartment units, comprising nine number one-bedroom units, 25 number two-bedroom units, and three number three-bedroom units.

A single basement level is proposed beneath Blocks 1 and 2, to accommodate car parking, bicycle parking areas, bin stores, and circulation areas.

The development includes associated site and infrastructural works including all associated road infrastructure, bicycle and pedestrian facilities including bicycle and pedestrian route through the site resulting in alterations to the existing Southgate Centre car park, foul and surface and storm water drainage, surface water management features, 181 number car parking spaces, public and communal open space, bin and bike stores, lighting, landscaping and boundary treatments, one number Electricity Supply Board substation, services, access arrangements, and all ancillary work all located at a site to the northeast of the Dublin Road, to the north of the existing Southgate Centre, and to the southwest of the existing Grange Rath residential development in Drogheda, County Meath.

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

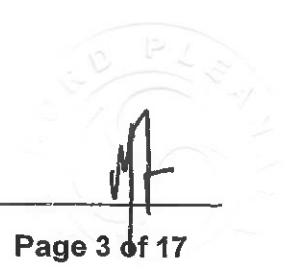
In making its decision, the Board had regard to those matters to which, by virtue of the Planning and Development Acts and Regulations made thereunder, it was required to have regard. Such matters included any submissions and observations received by it in accordance with statutory provisions.

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Reasons and Considerations

In coming to its decision, the Board had regard to the following:

- (a) The location of the site on lands with a zoning objective for residential development;
- (b) The policies and objectives as set out in the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027 and the Southern Environs of Drogheda Local Area Plan 2009-2015, as extended;
- (c) The provisions of Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness 2016;
- (d) The provisions of Housing for All, A New Housing Plan for Ireland issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage September 2021;
- (e) The provisions of Project Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework;
- (f) The provisions of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031;
- (g) 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;
- (h) The provisions of 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;
- (i) The provisions of the Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments, Guidelines for Planning Authorities issued by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in December 2020;
- (j) The provisions of the Urban Development and Building Heights Guidelines for Planning Authorities, issued by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in December 2018;

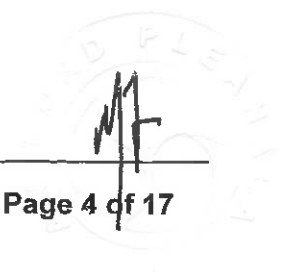


- (k) The provisions of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management for Planning Authorities (including the associated Technical Appendices), issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in 2009;
- (l) The nature, scale and design of the proposed development;
- (m) The pattern of existing development in the area;
- (n) The population growth targets for the area set out in the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027 and the Southern Environs of Drogheda Local Area Plan 2009-2015, as extended;
- (o) The capacity of the Wastewater Treatment Plant;
- (p) The Chief Executive's Report of Meath County Council;
- (q) The submissions and observations received and
- (r) The Planning Inspectors report.

Appropriate Assessment Screening

The Board completed an Appropriate Assessment screening exercise in relation to the potential effects of the proposed development on European Sites, taking into account the nature and scale of the proposed development on serviced lands, the nature of the receiving environment which comprises a built-up urban area, the distances to the nearest European Sites, ex-situ site considerations and the hydrological pathway considerations, submissions on file, the information submitted as part of the applicant's Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and the Inspector's report.

In completing the screening exercise, the Board agreed with and adopted the report of the Inspector and that, by itself or in combination with other development, plans and projects 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.

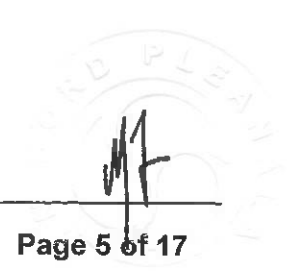


Environmental Impact Assessment Screening

The Board completed a screening determination of the proposed development and considered that the Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Statement 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:

- The nature and scale of the proposed development, which is below the threshold in respect Class10(b)(i) and Class 10(iv) of Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended.
- The location of the site on lands zoned for residential development in the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027 and the Southern Environs of Drogheda Local Area Plan 2009-2015, as extended, which were subject to a strategic environmental assessment in accordance with the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EEC).
- The location of the site contiguous to the existing built up urban area of Drogheda, which is served by public infrastructure, and the existing pattern of development in the vicinity.
- The location of the development outside of any sensitive location specified in Article 299(C)(1)(v) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended.
- The guidance set out in the “Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-threshold Development”, issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2003).
- The criteria as set out in Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended.



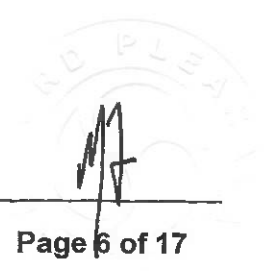
- The features and measures proposed by the applicant envisaged to avoid or prevent what might otherwise be significant effects on the environment, including measures identified in the Operational Waste Management Plan, Construction and Demolition Waste By-Product Management Plan, Construction Management Plan, Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment, Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and Ecological Impact Assessment.

In conclusion, having regard to the absence of any significant environmental sensitivity in the vicinity and the absence of any connectivity to any sensitive location, there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development and that the preparation and submission of an environmental impact assessment report would not, therefore, be required.

Conclusions on Proper Planning and Sustainable Development

The Board considered that the proposed development is compliant with the provisions of the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027 and the Southern Environs of Drogheda Local Area Plan 2009-2015, as extended, 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 not seriously injure the residential or visual amenities of the area or of property in the vicinity, would be acceptable in terms of urban design, height and quantum of development and would be acceptable in terms of traffic and pedestrian safety and convenience. The proposed development would, therefore, be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.



Conditions

1. The development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the plans and particulars lodged with the application except as may otherwise be required in order to comply with the following conditions. Where such conditions require details to be agreed with the planning authority, the developer shall agree such details in writing with the planning authority prior to commencement of development, and the development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the agreed particulars. In default of agreement the matter(s) in dispute shall be referred to An Bord Pleanála for determination.

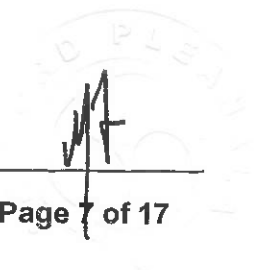
Reason: In the interest of clarity.

2. Mitigation and monitoring measures outlined in the plans and particulars, including the Ecological Impact Assessment submitted with this application shall be carried out in full, except where otherwise required by conditions attached to this permission.

Reason: In the interest of protecting the environment and in the interest of public health.

3. A schedule of all materials to be used in the external treatment of the development to include a variety of high quality brick finishes, roofing materials, windows and doors shall be submitted to and 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 and to ensure an appropriate high standard of development.



4. The boundary planting and open spaces shall be landscaped in accordance with the landscape scheme submitted to An Bord Pleanála with this application and will incorporate formal and informal seating areas, 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 units are made available for occupation. Access to roof areas shall be strictly prohibited unless for maintenance purposes.

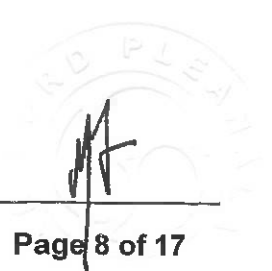
Reason: In order to ensure the satisfactory development of the public open space areas, and their continued use for this purpose.

5. Prior to commencement of development the applicant shall agree in writing with the planning authority, the requirement for a piece of Public Art within the site. All works shall be at the applicant's expense.

Reason: In the interests of place making and visual amenity.

6. Bat and bird boxes shall be installed in the proposed development, prior to the occupation of the residential units. The number, type and location of the boxes shall be submitted to and agreed in writing with the planning authority.

Reason: To promote biodiversity.



7. The car parking spaces hereby permitted shall be reserved solely to serve the proposed development and shall not be utilised for any other purpose, unless subject of a separate grant of planning permission. Prior to the occupation of the development, a Parking Management Plan shall be prepared for the site and shall be submitted to and agreed in writing with the planning authority. This plan shall indicate how the car parking spaces will be assigned and how the car park shall be continually managed.

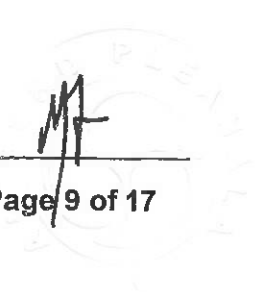
Reason: To ensure that adequate parking facilities are permanently available to serve the proposed residential units.

8. Prior to the occupation of the residential units, 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. 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.

9. A minimum of 10% of all car parking spaces shall be provided with functioning electric vehicle charging stations or points, and ducting shall be provided for all remaining car parking spaces, facilitating the installation of electric vehicle charging points or stations at a later date. Where proposals relating to the installation of electric vehicle ducting and charging stations or points have 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.



10. The number of bicycle spaces provided on the site shall be increased to comply with the standards set out in the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027. Details of the layout, marking demarcation and security provisions for these 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.

11. Electric charging facilities shall be provided for bicycle parking and proposals shall be submitted to and agreed in writing with the planning authority prior to the occupation of the development.

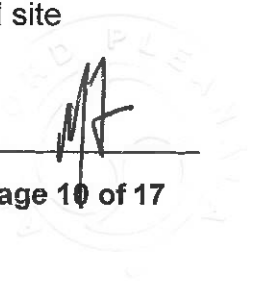
Reason: In the interests of orderly development and to provide for and future proof the development as would facilitate the use of electric bicycles.

12. Public lighting shall be provided in accordance with a final scheme to reflect the indicative details in the submitted Public Lighting Report, details of which shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development or installation of lighting. Such lighting shall be provided prior to the making available for occupation of any residential unit.

Reason: In the interests of amenity and public safety.

13. The developer shall facilitate the preservation, recording and protection of archaeological materials or features that may exist within the site. In this regard, the developer shall -

- (a) notify the planning authority in writing at least four weeks prior to the commencement of any site operation including hydrological and geotechnical investigations relating to the proposed development,
- (b) employ a suitably qualified archaeologist who shall monitor all site investigations and other excavation works, and



- (c) provide arrangements, acceptable to the planning authority, for the recording and for the removal of any archaeological material which the authority considers appropriate to remove.

In default of agreement on any of these requirements, the matter shall be referred to An Bord Pleanála for determination.

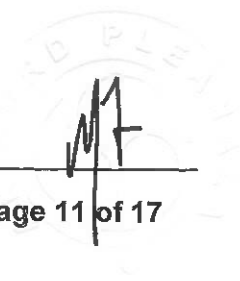
Reason: In order to conserve the archaeological heritage of the site and to secure the preservation and protection of any remains that may exist within the site.

14. 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.

15. Proposals for a naming and numbering scheme and associated signage shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. Thereafter, all signs, and apartment 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 or 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.



16. All service cables associated with the proposed development such as electrical, telecommunications and communal television shall be located underground. Ducting shall be provided by the developer to facilitate the provision of broadband infrastructure within the proposed development.

Reason: In the interests of visual and residential amenity.

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

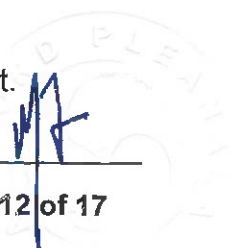
Reason: In the interest of amenity and of traffic and pedestrian safety.

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

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.



19. Prior to commencement of development, the developer shall enter into water and or wastewater connection agreement(s) with Irish Water.

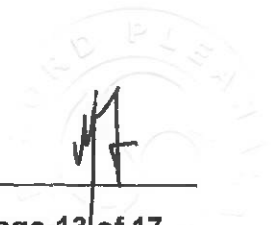
Reason: In the interest of public health.

20. Site development and building works shall be carried out only between the hours of 0700 to 1900 Mondays to Fridays inclusive, between 0800 to 1400 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 residential amenities of property in the vicinity

21. The construction of the development shall be managed in accordance with a Construction and Environmental Management Plan, which shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. This plan shall provide details of intended construction practice for the development, including a detailed traffic management plan, hours of working, noise management measures and off-site disposal of construction and demolition waste.

Reason: In the interests of public safety and residential amenity



22. 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 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.

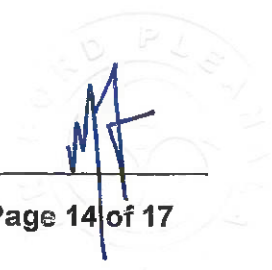
Reason: In the interest of residential amenity, and to ensure the provision of adequate refuse storage.

23. 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.

Reason: In the interest of sustainable waste management.

24. 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 hours of working, management measures and off-site disposal of construction and demolition waste.

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

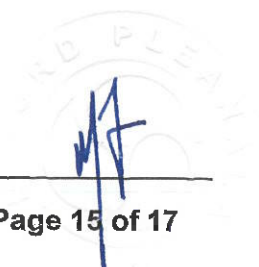


25. The management and maintenance of the proposed development following its completion shall be the responsibility of a legally constituted management company. A management scheme providing adequate measures for the future maintenance of public open spaces and communal areas shall be submitted to, and 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.

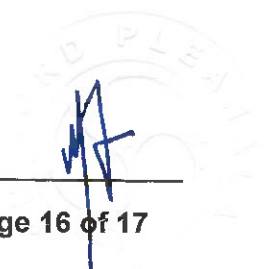
26. Prior to commencement of development, the developer or other person with an interest in the land to which the application relates shall enter into an agreement in writing with the planning authority in relation to the provision of housing in accordance with the requirements of section 94(4) and section 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.




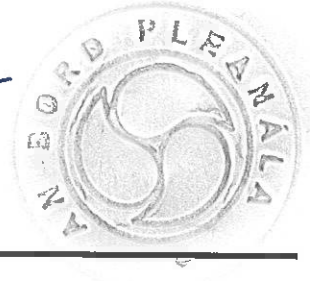
27. Prior to commencement of development, the developer shall lodge with the planning authority a cash deposit, a bond of an insurance company, or other security to secure the provision and satisfactory completion and maintenance until taken in charge by the local authority of roads, footpaths, watermains, 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



28. 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 *23rd* day of *November* 2021