

Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2021

Planning Authority: Meath County Council

Planning Register Reference Number: 21/21

Appeal by Robert Mullervy of 14 Caislean Mainear, Kentstown Road, Navan, County Meath against the decision made on the 23rd day of September, 2021 by Meath County Council to grant subject to conditions a permission to Andrews Construction Limited care of The Planning Partnership of The Bank Building, 52 Oliver Plunkett Street, Mullingar, County Westmeath in accordance with plans and particulars lodged with the said Council:

Proposed Development: Construction of 95 number residential units over two, three and four storeys in two, three and four-bed (terrace, semi-detached, townhouse and duplex) formats, comprising 13 number two-bed duplex units, 71 number three-bed units (57 number houses and 14 number duplex), and 11 number four-bed houses, formation of 4,313 square metres of landscaped open space areas, as incorporates a riparian biodiversity corridor associated with the open water course, 200 number dedicated car parking spaces (187 residential, seven number creche and six number visitor), 64 number cycle parking spaces, new primary vehicular and pedestrian access to the proposed development will be provided from a new access junction located on the Old Road with associated road widening and improvement works. The proposal

includes all associated hard and soft landscaping, boundary treatments, footpaths, an ESB sub-station, a foul water pumping station and all other ancillary works above and below ground, on a site of circa 2.72 hectares at Old Road, Bailis Townland/Alexander Reid Townland, Navan, County Meath. The proposed development was revised by further public notices received by the planning authority on the 30th day of July, 2021.

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

Having regard to the following:

- (a) the provisions of the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027, including the zoning objectives for the site,
- (b) the “Housing for All - A New Housing Plan for Ireland” issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in September 2021,
- (c) 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,
- (d) the “Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas”, issued by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in 2009,
- (e) the “Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments, Guidelines for Planning Authorities” issued by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government in 2020,
- (f) the Planning System and Flood Risk Management (including the associated Technical Appendices), Guidelines for Planning Authorities” issued by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in 2009,
- (g) the “Urban Development and Building Heights, Guidelines for Planning Authorities”, issued by the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government in 2018,

- (h) the nature, scale and design of the proposed development,
- (i) the availability in the area of a wide range of social, community and transport infrastructure,
- (j) the pattern of existing and permitted development in the area,
- (k) the planning history within the area, and
- (l) the report of the Inspector, and the submissions and observations received in relation to the application and appeal,

it is considered that, subject to compliance with the conditions set out below, the proposed development would constitute an acceptable residential density, 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.

Appropriate Assessment: Stage 1

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 Natura Impact Statement Report submitted with the application, the Inspector's report, and the 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 effects on any European Site in view of the conservation objectives of such sites, other than River Boyne and River Blackwater Special Area of Conservation (Site code: 002299) and River Boyne and River Blackwater Special Protection Area (Site code: 004232) which are the European Sites for which there is a likelihood of significant effects.

Appropriate Assessment: Stage 2

The Board considered the Natura Impact Statement and all other relevant submissions on the file and carried out an Appropriate Assessment of the implications of the proposed development on the River Boyne and River Blackwater Special Area of Conservation (Site code: 002299) and River Boyne and River Blackwater Special Protection Area (Site code: 004232), in view of the Sites' conservation objectives. The Board considered that the information before it was adequate to allow the carrying out of an Appropriate Assessment. In completing the appropriate assessment, the Board considered, in particular, the following:

- (a) the site-specific conservation objectives for the European sites,
- (b) the likely direct and indirect impacts arising from the proposed development both individually or in combination with other plans or projects, and in particular the risk of impacts on surface water, and
- (c) the mitigation measures which are included as part of the current proposal.

In completing the Appropriate Assessment, the Board accepted and adopted the Appropriate Assessment carried out in the Inspector's report in respect of the potential effects of the proposed development on the afore-mentioned

European Sites, having regard to the Sites' conservation objectives. In overall conclusion, the Board was satisfied that the proposed development, by itself or in combination with other plans or projects, would not adversely affect the integrity of European Sites in view of the Sites' conservation objectives. This conclusion is based on a complete assessment of all aspects of the proposed project and there is no reasonable doubt as to the absence of adverse effects, having regard to:

- A full and detailed assessment of all aspects of the proposed project including proposed mitigation measures and ecological monitoring in relation to the Conservation Objectives for the River Boyne and River Blackwater Special Area of Conservation (Site code: 002299) and River Boyne and River Blackwater Special Protection Area (Site code: 004232);
- The detailed assessment of in-combination effects with other plans and projects including current proposals and future plans.

No reasonable scientific doubt remains as to the absence of adverse effects on the integrity of the River Boyne and River Blackwater Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 002299) and River Boyne and River Blackwater Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004232).

Conditions

1. The development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the plans and particulars lodged with the application, as amended by the revised plans submitted on the 20th day of July 2021, 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.

Reason: In the interest of clarity.

2. Prior to the commencement of any house or duplex unit in the development as permitted, the applicant or any person with an interest in the land shall enter into an agreement with the planning authority (such agreement must specify the number and location of each house or duplex unit), pursuant to Section 47 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, that restricts all houses and duplex units permitted, to first occupation by individual purchasers, i.e. those not being a corporate entity, and/or by those eligible for the occupation of social and/or affordable housing, including cost rental housing.

Reason: To restrict new housing development to use by persons of a particular class or description in order to ensure an adequate choice and supply of housing, including affordable housing, in the common good.

3. Details of the materials, colours and textures of all the external finishes to the proposed development shall be as submitted with the application, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the planning authority prior to commencement of development.

Reason: In the interest of visual amenity.

4. Proposals for an estate/street name, house/apartment numbering scheme and associated signage shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. Thereafter, all estate and street signs and house/apartment numbers shall be provided in accordance with the agreed scheme. No advertisements/marketing signage relating to the name of the development shall be erected until the developer has obtained the planning authority's written agreement to the proposed name.

Reason: In the interest of urban legibility.

5. The proposal shall be carried out in accordance with the phasing scheme submitted on to the planning authority on the 20th day of July 2021 with the crèche provided in the first phase of development.

Reason: In the interest of orderly development.

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

Reason: In the interests of amenity and public safety.

7. (a) The internal road network serving the proposed development, including 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 DMURS.
- (b) Prior to the first occupation of the development, a finalised Mobility Management Strategy shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority. This shall provide for incentives to encourage the use of public transport, cycling, walking, and carpooling by residents/occupants/staff employed in the development and to reduce and regulate the extent of parking. The mobility strategy shall be prepared and implemented by the management company for all units within the development.

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

8. All roads and footpaths shown to adjoining lands shall be constructed up to the boundaries with no ransom strips remaining to provide access to adjoining lands. These areas shall be shown for taking in charge in a drawing to be submitted to and agreed in writing with the planning authority prior to commencement of development.

Reason: In the interest of permeability and proper planning and sustainable development.

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

10. 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.

11. (a) Drainage arrangements, including the attenuation and disposal of surface water, shall comply with the detailed requirements of the planning authority for such works and services.
- (b) Prior to commencement of development, the developer shall submit to and agree in writing with the planning authority a Stage 2 - Detailed Design Stage Storm Water Audit.
- (c) Upon completion of the development, a Stage 3 Completion Stormwater Audit to demonstrate Sustainable Urban Drainage System measures have been installed and are working as designed and that there has been no misconnections or damage to storm water drainage infrastructure during construction, shall be submitted to and agreed in writing with the planning authority.
- (d) A maintenance policy to include regular operational inspection and maintenance of the SUDS infrastructure and the petrol/oil interceptors shall be submitted to and agreed in writing with the planning authority prior to occupation of proposed dwelling units and shall be implemented in accordance with that agreement.

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

12. 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.

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

Reason: In the interest of residential and visual amenity.

15. (a) Prior to commencement of development, all trees/hedgerow which are to be retained shall be enclosed within stout fences not less than 1.5 metres in height. This protective fencing shall enclose an area covered by the crown spread of the branches, or at minimum a radius of two metres from the trunk of the tree or the centre of the shrub, and to a distance of two metres on each side of the hedge for its full length and shall be maintained until the development has been completed.
- (b) No construction equipment, machinery or materials shall be brought onto the site for the purpose of the development until all the trees which are to be retained have been protected by this fencing. No work shall be carried out within the area enclosed by the fencing and, in particular, there shall be no parking of vehicles, placing of site huts, storage compounds or topsoil heaps, storage of oil, chemicals or other substances, and no lighting of fires, over the root spread of any tree to be retained.
- (c) Excavations in preparation for foundations and drainage, 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.

16. The construction of the development shall be managed in accordance with a Construction 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) 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) A Construction Traffic Management Plan providing 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 footpath, cyclepath or public road during the course of site development works.
- (i) Details of appropriate mitigation measures for noise, dust and vibration, and the location and frequency of 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.

17. Site development and building works shall be carried out only between the hours of 0700 to 1900 Mondays to Fridays inclusive, between the hours of 0800 to 1400 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

18. (a) The communal open spaces, including hard and soft landscaping, car parking areas and access ways, communal refuse/bin storage, and all areas not intended to be taken in charge by the local authority, shall be maintained by a legally constituted management company
- (b) Details of the management company contract, and drawings/particulars describing the parts of the development for which the company would have responsibility, shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority before any of the residential units are made available for occupation.
- (c) Prior to commencement of development, the developer shall submit to and agree in writing with the planning authority, drawings showing all development works to be taken in charge designed to meet the standards of the planning authority.

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

19. Prior to commencement of development, the applicant or other person with an interest in the land to which the application relates shall enter into an agreement in writing with the planning authority in relation to the provision of housing in accordance with the requirements of section 94(4) and section 96(2) and (3) (Part V) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, unless an exemption certificate shall have been applied for and been granted under section 97 of the Act, as amended. Where such an agreement is not reached within eight weeks from the date of this order, the matter in dispute (other than a matter to which section 96(7) applies) may be referred by the planning authority or any other prospective party to the agreement to An Bord Pleanála for determination.

Reason: To comply with the requirements of Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and of the housing strategy in the development plan of the area.

20. Detailed measures in relation to the protection of bats shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority, prior to commencement of development. These measures shall be implemented as part of the development. Any envisaged destruction of structures that support bat populations shall be carried out only under licence from the National Parks and Wildlife Service and details of any such licence shall be submitted to the planning authority.

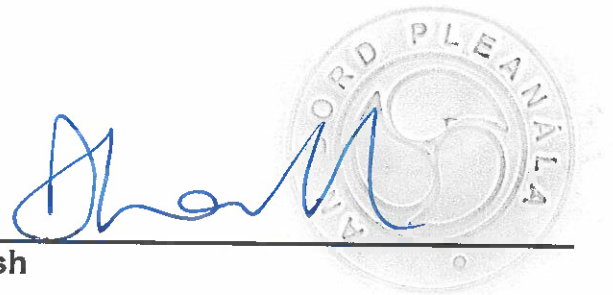
Reason: In the interest of wildlife protection.

21. 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.

22. 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.



Dave Walsh

Member of An Bord Pleanála

**duly authorised to authenticate
the seal of the Board.**

Dated this *19th* day of *April* 2022.