



An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Order
ABP-311786-21

Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2021

Planning Authority: Meath County Council

Planning Register Reference Number: 21/1543

APPEAL by Darren McDermott care of Ger Fahy Planning, Planning and Development Consultant of Mulhussey, Maynooth, County Kildare against the decision made on the 4th day of October, 2021 by Meath County Council to refuse permission.

Proposed Development: Construction of a new detached bungalow dwelling, wastewater treatment system, new site entrance and all associated site works at Fleenstown Great, Ashbourne, County Meath.

Decision

REFUSE permission for the above proposed development in accordance with the reasons and considerations set out below.

Reasons and Considerations

1. Having regard to the location of the site within an Area Under Strong Urban Influence in accordance with the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines for Planning Authorities published by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government 2005, National Policy Objective 19 of the National Planning Framework (February 2018) which, for rural areas under urban influence, seeks to facilitate the provision of single housing in the countryside based on the core consideration of demonstrable economic or social need to live in a rural area, having regard to the viability of smaller towns and rural settlements, the Board could not be satisfied on the basis of the information on the file that the applicant comes within the scope of either economic or social housing need criteria as set out in the overarching National Guidelines.

The proposed development, in absence of any identified local based need for the house at this location, would result in a haphazard and unsustainable form of development in an unserved area, would contribute to the encroachment of random rural development in the area and would militate against the preservation of the rural environment and the efficient provision of public services and infrastructure and undermine the settlement strategy set out in the development plan. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

2. Notwithstanding the proposal to use a proprietary wastewater treatment system on site, the Board had regard to the proliferation of domestic wastewater treatment systems in this rural area, the high level of the water table on site and to the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines for Planning Authorities published by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government 2005 which recommend, in un-sewered rural areas, avoiding sites where it is inherently difficult to provide and maintain wastewater treatment and disposal facilities. The Board could not be satisfied, on the basis of the information on the file, that the impact of the proposed development in conjunction with existing wastewater treatment systems in the area would not give rise to a risk of groundwater pollution. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.



Terry Ó Niadh

Member of An Bord Pleanála

duly authorised to authenticate
the seal of the Board

Dated this 16th day of May, 2022

