

# Board Order ABP-315337-22

Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2022

Planning Authority: Wexford County Council

Planning Register Reference Number: 20200916

Appeal by John Molloy of 5 Orchard Close, Ardcavan, County Wexford and by John White of 86 North Main Street, Wexford against the decision made on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2021 by Wexford County Council to grant subject to conditions a permission to CoAnt Entertainments Limited care of Simon Clear and Associates of 17A Bridgecourt Office Park, Walkinstown Avenue, Walkinstown, Dublin in accordance with plans and particulars lodged with the said Council.

Proposed Development: Permission for a development on a site with frontages at Commercial Quay. The development will consist of demolition of all existing structures on the site and redevelopment including construction of a part five-storey, part-seven storey and parteight storey over basement mixed-use development accommodating a hotel fronting to Commercial Quay, retail/non-retail service/restaurants spaces and 12 number residential units. The development will accommodate:- (1) two number retail/non-retail service/restaurant units (circa 355 square metres) fronting on to Charlotte Street and Commercial Quay, hotel foyer and bin stores at ground floor; (2) Hotel administration and staff facilities at ground floor mezzanine level; (3) Restaurant and courtyard, bar/lounge, meeting rooms with associated balconies, function

room, smoking area, kitchen, stores and toilets at first floor; (4) Gym, meeting rooms with associated balconies and cold room at first floor mezzanine level; (5) 142 number hotel bedrooms and storage areas on second, third and fourth floors; (6) 12 number two-bedroom apartments with associated balconies at fifth, sixth and seventh floor level; (7) 105 number car parking spaces at basement, ground floor and ground floor mezzanine levels; (8) Vehicular entrance from Commercial Quay; (9) Plant and storage at basement level; (10) External plant at first, fifth and roof level and (11) all associated signage, landscaping and site work and services at Commercial Quay and Charlotte Street, Wexford, County Wexford. Further public notices were received by the planning authority on the 28th day of January, 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.

## **Reasons and Considerations**

Having regard to the provisions of the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028, the relevant National Guidelines and the location of the site within Wexford town centre, which is in an established urban area within walking of public transport and to the nature, form, scale, density and design of the proposed development, it is considered that, subject to compliance with the conditions set out below, the proposed development would not seriously injure the residential, visual or environmental amenities of the area. The proposed development would, therefore, be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

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# **Appropriate Assessment Screening**

The proposed development was considered in light of the requirements of Section 177U of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. Having carried out Screening for Appropriate Assessment of the project, it has been concluded that the project individually or in combination with other plans or projects would not be likely to give rise to significant effects on the Slaney River Valley Special Area of Conservation (site code 000781) and the Wexford Harbour and Slobs Special Protection Area (site code 004076) or any other European site, in view of the site's conservation objectives, and an Appropriate Assessment (and submission of a Natura Impact Statement) is not, therefore, required.

## Conditions

The development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the plans and particulars lodged with the application, as amended by the further plans and particulars submitted on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of January 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.

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 This permission is for a hotel of 133 bedrooms, restaurant/retail/nonretail units and 10 number apartment units in the form of twobedroom units as received by the planning authority on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021.

Reason: In the interest of clarity.

 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.

 Details of all external shopfronts and associated signage shall be the subject of a separate planning application.

Reason: In the interest of the amenities of the area.

Details including samples of the materials, colours and textures of all
the external finishes to the proposed buildings shall be submitted to,
and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to
commencement of development.

**Reason**: In the interest of the visual amenities of the area.

6. (a) The internal road network serving the proposed development, including turning bays, parking areas, underground car park design, footpaths and kerbs, and the junction with the public road to the shall be in accordance with the detailed standards of the planning authority for such works.

- (b) A total of 103 number parking spaces to be provided, ten of which are to be solely for the use of the residential units, and these ten spaces shall provide for electric vehicle charging points.
- (c) 10% of the remaining spaces shall provide for electric vehicle charging points and suitable measures shall be put in place to the allow for the future conversion of the remaining spaces for electric charging, i.e. ducting shall be put in place.

**Reason**: In the interests of amenity and of traffic and pedestrian safety.

- 7. Proposals for a development name, unit numbering scheme and associated signage shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. The proposed name shall be based on local historical or topographical features, or other alternatives acceptable to the planning authority. 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 and to ensure the use of locally appropriate placenames for new residential areas.
- 8. Water supply and drainage arrangements, including the disposal of surface water, shall comply with the requirements of the planning authority for such works and services.

Reason: In the interest of public health.

 The developer shall enter into water and/or wastewater connection agreement(s) with Uisce Eireann prior to commencement of development.

Reason: In the interest of public health.

- 10. 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.

11. 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 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.

12. 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, noise management measures and off-site disposal of construction/demolition waste.

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

13. Prior to the commencement of development, the developer or any agent acting on its behalf, shall prepare a Resource Waste Management Plan (RWMP) as set out in the EPA's Best Practice Guidelines for the Preparation of Resource and Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Projects (2021) including demonstration of proposals to adhere to best practice and protocols. The RWMP shall include specific proposals as to how the RWMP will be measured and monitored for effectiveness, these details shall be placed on the file and retained as part of the public record. The RWMP must be submitted to the planning authority for written agreement prior to the commencement of development. All records (including for waste and all resources) pursuant to the agreed RWMP shall be made available for inspection at the site office at all times.

Reason: In the interest of sustainable waste management.

 That all necessary measures be taken by the contractor to prevent the spillage or deposit of clay, rubble or other debris on adjoining roads during the course of the works.

**Reason**: To protect the amenities of the area.

15. 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.

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

- 16. (a) Amplified music or other specific entertainment noise emissions from the premises shall not exceed the background noise level by more than 3 dB(A) during the period 0800 to 2200 hours and by more than 1 dB(A) at any other time, when measured at any external position adjoining an occupied dwelling in the vicinity. The background noise level shall be taken as L90 and the specific noise shall be measured at LAeqT.
  - (b) The octave band centre frequencies of noise emissions at 63 Hz and at 125 Hz shall be subject to the same locational and decibel exceedence criteria in relation to background noise levels as set out in (a) above. The background noise levels shall be measured at LAeqT.
  - (c) The background noise levels shall be measured in the absence of the specific noise, on days and at times when the specific noise source would normally be operating, either
    - (i) during a temporary shutdown of the specific noise source, or
    - (ii) during a period immediately before or after the specific noise source operates.
  - (d) When measuring the specific noise, the time (T) shall be any five minute period during which the sound emission from the premises is at its maximum level.
  - (e) Any measuring instrument shall be precision grade.

Detailed plans and particulars indicating sound-proofing or other measures to ensure compliance with this condition shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to use of the premises. An acoustical analysis shall be included with this submission to the planning authority.

**Reason**: In order to protect the amenities of property in the vicinity having particular regard to the nuisance potential of low frequency sound emissions during night-time hours.

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. 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.

Peter Mullan

Member of An Bord Pleanála duly authorised to authenticate the seal of the Board.

Dated this 25th day of January, 2