



An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Order 29S.JA0039

Planning and Development Acts, 2000 to 2018

Planning Authority: Dublin City Council

Application by Dublin City Council for approval under section 175 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, in accordance with plans and particulars, including an environmental impact assessment report lodged with An Bord Pleanála on the 18th day of May, 2017.

Proposed Development: Development of a civic plaza and ancillary traffic management measures on an overall site of 13,960 square metres (1.396 hectares) (of which the plaza component covers an area of 7,300 square metres (circa 0.73 hectares)), currently comprising roadways and pathways on a site which includes the full area of College Green and Foster Place (also known as Foster Place South) to the south and west of the Bank of Ireland (former House of Parliament) and immediately west of Trinity College and encompasses Church Lane, Trinity Street, St. Andrew Street, the northern end of Grafton Street and the southernmost part of College Street. The eastern edge of the proposed plaza is demarcated by the north-south alignment of Luas Cross City and runs westwards as far as Anglesea Street (with a maximum east-west length of 148 metres). The site is bounded by the following Protected Structures: Bank of Ireland (old Parliament House and armoury building), Henry Grattan monument (College Green), 2, 3, 9, 12-17, 20-27, 32-37 College Green; Trinity College (Buildings fronting Parliament Square, including Regent House, the Chapel, the Examination Hall, the Dining Hall and the 1937

Reading Room); Trinity College (Statues of Oliver Goldsmith and Edmund Burke); Trinity College (entrance gates and railings with granite bases on Grafton Street facing College Green), and Thomas Moore statue; 19-22, 24-31, 37-41, 46-49, 50-57 Dame Street; 3-4 and 5-6 Foster Place South; 1 Grafton Street (The Provost's House, Trinity College: House, boundary walls, gate piers and gates) and 117-119 Grafton Street; former St. Andrew's Church and 1, 2, 19-24 St. Andrew Street; 1-2 Suffolk Street, 2, 3-4 Church Lane. The site is located in a Conservation Area; the South City Retail Quarter Architectural Conservation Area (ACA); the Grafton Street and Environs Architectural Conservation Area and a zone of archaeological interest. The scheme provides for the removal of the existing median incorporating a central taxi rank and street trees. Existing statues are proposed to be repositioned within the site as an integral part of the design. Traffic management measures are also proposed including the removal of east-west traffic from College Green. The taxi rank on Foster Place and bus stops on College Green/Dame Street shall be removed and facilities relocated. Trees on Foster Place are to be retained. The main pedestrian plaza space on College Green situated (in front of the Bank of Ireland) between Church Lane and Grafton Street is 1,930 square metres (circa 0.193 hectares) in area, includes a central fountain feature, and has a maximum length of 63 metres (east-west) and maximum width of 34 metres (north-south); including high quality paving of the public domain (light and dark granite setts), street furniture (including lighting, seating, litter bins, bollards, cycle stands, planters and tree grilles) and the retention/relaying of existing flags and cobbles in Foster Place (area of 1,400 square metres (circa 0.14 hectares)). A new pedestrian crossing is proposed between the plaza to Trinity College entrance gates. A new row of trees is proposed on the southern edge of the plaza and a cycle path shall be provided on the southern edge. The intersection of Foster Place, College Green and Church Lane will be emphasised by the relocation of the existing Thomas Davis monument at this fulcrum. The area from the junction with Church Lane westwards to the junction with Anglesea Street 2,100 square metres (circa 0.21 hectares) is to be defined as an architecturally treated street with a row of new trees on northern and southern sides incorporating a bus turning circle (diameter circa 24.5 metres) and minor road works are also proposed on Dame Street, Trinity Street, St. Andrew

Street and Church Lane to include on-street loading bays and taxi ranks; overall site services, drainage measures and utilities.

Decision

Refuse to approve the above proposed development based on the reasons and considerations 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

It is considered that the principle of the proposed development is acceptable and that it would produce a quality public realm that would significantly enhance the amenity and attractiveness of this city centre location, would significantly improve the visual amenities of the area and would facilitate improved appreciation of the architectural and cultural heritage of this important site.

However, it is considered that:-

