



An
Bord
Pleanála

Record of Meeting ABP-310980-21- 2nd Meeting

Description	ABP-310980-21 – Upgrade of an existing Waste Water Treatment Plant at Mortarstown Co Carlow and the upgrade of an existing waste water pumping station, Kilkenny Road Carlow.		
Case Type	Pre-application Consultation.		
1st / 2nd / 3rd Meeting	2 nd Meeting		
Venue	Virtually by Microsoft Teams		
Date	20/07/2022	Time	15:00pm – 15.52pm

Representing An Bord Pleanála		
Brendan Wyse, Assistant Director of Planning (Chair)		
Mairead Kenny, Senior Planning Inspector		
Sarah Caulfield, Executive Officer	s.caulfield@pleanala.ie	01-8737287
Representing the Prospective Applicant		
Majella Keating - Planning Specialist, Irish Water		
Dawid Wozniak - Regional Delivery Lead, Irish Water		
Pat Egan- Design Engineer, Atkins		
Michael Brazil - Project Manager, Carlow County Council		
Aiden O'Neill - Planner, Coakely O'Neill		
Julie Larkin – Environmental Consultant, Atkins		

Introduction:

The Board referred to its previous meeting with the prospective applicant of the 30th September, 2021 and the record of this meeting. The Board asked if the prospective applicants had any comments it wished to make on the record of this meeting; the prospective applicant replied that it had no comments to make.

Presentation by the prospective applicant:

The prospective applicant provided a brief recap on the previous meeting and said the main items to be discussed include an update on the proposed development, an overview of the detailed design and layouts and environmental considerations for the project.

Alongside the upgrades proposed at Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) and the Kilkenny Road Wastewater Pumping Station (WwPS), it is now also proposed to include a new dual rising main from the Kilkenny Road pumping station to Mortarstown WwTP. It was noted that the increase in capacity to 58,000 P.E and the key drivers for the project remain the same.

The prospective applicant provided an overview of the proposed development and the site location. It was submitted that the agglomeration for the WwTP comprises the entirety of Carlow Town and adjacent small villages in Co. Laois.

The proposed red line boundary for the development has changed slightly given the addition of the dual rising main (approximately 870m of 900mm internal diameter) to interlink the pumping station to the WwTP. The dual rising main will be positioned within the existing road carriageway in the northern bound lane before joining the WwTP.

The prospective applicant confirmed that an EIAR and NIS will accompany the planning application. A second scoping report will be issued to all consultees to include the update in design with the addition of the dual rising main and responses will be fully addressed within the EIAR.

In relation to surveys, the prospective applicant said a number of site-specific surveys and assessments have been completed as part of the EIAR. An overview of

completed and planned surveys was provided. It was submitted that an otter holt was observed on the site and a derogation license has been sought. A bat roost survey has been completed and it submitted that no evidence of roosting was recorded on the site or within the vicinity of the site.

In relation to Air Quality, Odour and Climate, baseline air quality testing will be performed on the site. Odour sampling and testing and odour sniff assessments will also be performed at both the pumping station and the WwTP site.

Baseline noise monitoring has been completed at 5 sensitive locations near the WwTP site. Noise modelling for the construction phase will be revisited. Noise modelling will also be undertaken in relation to operational noise levels at the closest noise sensitive locations.

Specific surveys are also anticipated to inform chapters of the EIAR to include Traffic, Land, Soil and Geology, Water, Cultural Heritage, Landscape and Visual, and Material Assets. Each environmental topic will also include a section on cumulative impacts and interaction.

The prospective applicant provided their views in relation to the SID criteria as prescribed under section 37A(2) of the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006. In relation to section 37A(2)(a), the prospective applicant said while water infrastructure is listed as a strategic investment priority in the National Planning Framework, there are no prescriptive policies or objectives within the National Planning Framework or the Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy for the proposed development. Regarding section 37A(2)(b), it was submitted that there are no specific objectives within national or regional policy in respect of the proposed development however, local importance was noted. In relation to section 37A(2)(c), the prospective applicant said the agglomeration for the WwTP does extend into parts of Co. Laois, however, calculations have shown this area to represent a P.E equivalent of 5,500, and equates to 6.5% of the overall population of Co. Laois. For this reason, the prospective applicant said it is unlikely to be considered as having a significant effect on the area of more than one planning authority.

Discussion

The following matters were discussed:

- A general discussion was had surrounding the SID criteria as prescribed under section 37A(2) of the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006. The prospective applicant said they were previously of the opinion that the proposed development may fall within the criteria. However, following further assessments their opinion has changed somewhat. The prospective applicant said Graiguecullen is indicated as a key town within the RSES but it said Graiguecullen mainly consists of residential estates and is heavily reliant on Carlow for social and economic services. The prospective applicant said the population of Co. Laois is 91,000 and Graiguecullen accounts for only 5,300.
- The prospective applicant made reference to similar precedent cases such as upgrades to Ballybofey-Stranorlar Sewerage Scheme, Co, Donegal and WwTP in Nenagh, Co. Tipperary which were determined as not being strategic infrastructure developments. The prospective applicant said they would submit to the Board additional information in support of their view along with additional precedent cases.
- In response to a query on the matter, the prospective applicant said there is no phasing proposed and the development would be submitted as one complete project.
- In relation to the discovery of the otter holt on the site, the prospective applicant said the holt is within the red line boundary but would not be directly impacted by the construction. It may be necessary to restrict access by otter to the holt but there would be no long-term habitat loss.
- In response to a query on the matter, the prospective applicant said there are trees and vegetation which provide screening to the south of the pumping station site and other screening may be included in the final design. The Board's representatives advised that landscaping and fencing at this site should be carefully considered.

- The Board's representatives advised the prospective applicant to be cognisant of the new Carlow Development Plan 2022-2028 in relation to the zoning objectives for the proposed site.

Conclusion

The record of the meeting will issue to the prospective applicant, and it will then be a matter for the prospective applicant to submit any comments on this if it wishes to do so. It will be a matter for the prospective applicant to revert to the Board if it requires a further meeting or if it wishes to close the pre-application consultation process.



Brendan Wyse

Assistant Director of Planning

5th August 2022